

Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

May 15, 2000 www.macleans.ca

CANADA-U.S.
The New Missile Debate
CANNES
Roulette on the Riviera

Remembering
the Friendly Giant

A photograph of three children lying down, surrounded by a large number of colorful balloons in shades of yellow, blue, red, and purple. The child at the top is a girl with dark hair, smiling. The child on the bottom left is a boy with dark hair, looking towards the camera. The child on the bottom right is a girl with dark hair, smiling. The balloons are scattered all around them, creating a festive and playful background.

Keeping KIDS Healthy

How research is saving lives

Helping parents deal with allergies,
asthma and ADHD

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"Come to try and catch me!"
 "Be my guest."
 "Enchanted by the sun-fogged air when I am
 far, awfully far from where I should be."

...and the Proportional Control System, a microcomputer controlled braking system.

1. *Phlox* spp. (Phloxaceae)
2. *Salix* spp. (Salicaceae)
3. *Populus* spp. (Salicaceae)
4. *Alnus* spp. (Fagaceae)
5. *Betula* spp. (Betulaceae)
6. *Quercus* spp. (Fagaceae)
7. *Castanea* spp. (Fagaceae)
8. *Pinus* spp. (Pinaceae)
9. *Larix* spp. (Pinaceae)
10. *Juniperus* spp. (Cupressaceae)
11. *Cedrus* spp. (Cupressaceae)
12. *Thuja* spp. (Cupressaceae)
13. *Abies* spp. (Pinaceae)
14. *Podocarpus* spp. (Podocarpaceae)
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Macleans's

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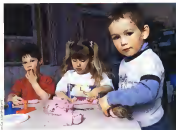
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There would be two types of benefits:

[illegible]
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MEDIA

Cover



50 Keeping kids healthy

Thanks to great strides in medical care, child mortality rates have plummeted and most disease rates are down. Now, researchers are offering help to parents dealing with disruptive behavioural disorders, growing incidences of autism, obesity and other troubling childhood conditions.

Features



16 The new missile debate

Critics, including Canada's Lloyd Axworthy, call Washington's plans for a new missile defence system a dangerous and destabilising step towards a new global arms race.



73 A Giant remembered

Robert Hounie, who starred in *The Friendly Giant* between 1956 and 1985, was beloved by generations of kids.



75 Roulette on the Riviera

Moviemakers and ingenues gamble for high status in Cannes The festival's golden age, featuring the likes of Brigitte Bardot, may be gone, but a star can still be born

From the

Editor

In pursuit of journalistic excellence

It was a gala dinner, attended by more than 1,500 leaders from the corporate and education communities. Hosted by The Collegium of Work and Learning, an organization established in 1997 to champion a strong public education system, the Toronto event honoured the efforts of two distinguished Canadians for their contributions to learning: Brent Stophenson, a former Ontario education minister and a public education advocate, and Jean Murty, CEO of BCE Inc. and chairman of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

And as it turned out, the evening honoured this magazine as well. Last Tuesday, McInerney was the proud recipient of The Collegium of Work and Learning's inaugural award for journalism excellence. Assistant Managing Editor Ann Dowsett-Johnson accepted the award, which, in the words of the citation, honoured the magazine's "thoughtful, relevant and thought-provoking coverage of public education and learning issues."

Peter McInerney, chairman of the collegium, congratulated the magazine on its "truly outstanding" journalism, which reshaped a broad body of work from 1999, the annual university rank-

ing issue, several columns by Dowsett-Johnson, a cover story on the battle to recruit smart grads, "Counting the class of '99," as well as *The Madliest Guide to Canadian Colleges* and *The*



Dowsett (left), Dowsett-Johnson, Susan Rosen

Madliest Guide to Canadian Colleges. "Through its focus on critical education issues," said McInerney, "Madliest has developed an undeniable credibility in the field."

Much of the credit goes to Dowsett-Johnson. That credibility has been forged by her strong sense as Madliest

Since 1999, Dowsett-Johnson has overseen the annual university rankings, launched the best-selling annual guidebooks and emerged as a strong voice on educational issues. Contributing Editor Mary Dwyer has been an essential partner in the annual ranking exercise, dealing with the universities on a year-round basis. And Associate Art Director Gaille Schmitt has brought her creative touch to both the ranking issues and the university guide, now in its fifth year. A host of other dedicated staff has contributed to the project.

That team has now begun work on yet another project: *The Madliest Guide to Canadian Universities and Colleges*, due on newsstands early next year. It will surely have an audience, between now and 2010, postsecondary demand is expected to skyrocket by 40 per cent, as the echo boom babies in way out of high school. We look forward to helping people make good choices.

Robert Lewis

roblewis@canadabiz.ca to comment on From the Editor



Newsroom Notes

Inside knowledge

Toronto freelance writer Scott Sinclair does work largely on a fascinating story for the new *History* section: how the Israeli standup up more than 2,000 German and Austrian nationals early in the Second World War as suspected fifth columnists and shipped them to Canada. Most of those arrested in camps

were not in fact Nazi sympathizers, but unsuspecting Jewish boys and men who had no idea where they were being sent, or why. They could be released from the camps when a Canadian sponsored them. Sinclair was a college student when her father agreed to sponsor one of the men.

The story behind the black-and-white photo on page 24 is no less compelling. One of the "camp boys," Bryan Seeling, explains: "I was taken with a home-made camera by Marcel Seeling

(now deceased) and me. It was an illegal act as we were not supposed to have photographic equipment. But we stole lenses from a visiting ophthalmologist, built a camera, converted a burner case into a portable 'darkroom,' and openly ordered 'QJM powder' from Eastern-Canada. The camera, reading our sales, had no idea that the powder was really developer." Seeling, 78, went on to work with *Lorne Gensert* at CBC Radio dramas and now lives in New York City where he is an attorney on Wall Street.



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Mind over matter

As someone whose own brain function is a frequent source of mystery, I thoroughly enjoyed "How we think" (Cover, May 1). Few of us always know why we do what we do and that's why I'm glad this story cannot cause pain in a magazine that otherwise devotes itself to reporting the wackier aspects of hu-

man behaviour. Resolving Western philosophy's traditional mind-matter dualism would, of course, be an exceptionally neat trick—so neat that we would be unlikely to witness it first in a scientific population.

Mark Kennedy, Toronto

One can point out that certain physical lines on a person's face signify certain personality traits, but that doesn't tell us why we are who we are. It simply labels. We can keep building machines that are smaller and faster, and we'll find that we can label till our brain's content. But, labeling is missing the point. Scientists have to look behind the physical world to the incredible energy/consciousness that forms the physical.

Tracy Denner, Victoria

Freedom or family

The **Elfin González** case is not about the importance of a parent or about parental rights—these are not in dispute ("Eye of the storm," World, May 1). It is about the importance of freedom over slavery. While it is good for a child's well-being to grow up with parents in a loving home, what is more important is freedom. A child living under a Communist regime cannot be better off than a child living in a free country where he can flourish.

Della Teles, Toronto

We scare are full of ourselves, thinking that democracy guarantees a happy home. How long will it be before we have to explain to Elfin González that we have children who wander the streets hiding from every kind of abuse and exploitation? I guess the red flag of communism has made us forget our own bondage and regret.

Teresa Hanson, Kelowna, B.C.

Raves and alcohol

I don't want to minimize the concern that I have about young people putting unknown and potentially harmful mind-altering drugs into their systems, but as a physician in a small town, I am more concerned about the universal acceptance of alcohol abuse ("Rave fever," News, April 28). A weekend doesn't pass without someone presenting at emergency with some alcohol-related physical or emotional injury. Considering the numbers of young people attending raves, the mortality is very low. Any idea how many deaths would have occurred if they had been drinking?

Dr. Dale Dennis, Weyburn, Sask.

Fun with the Bard

We read "The play's (kinda) the thing" about the high-school students learning about Shakespeare (Ottawa, May 1) and we would like you to know that we are in Grade 2 and 3 and we have been studying Shakespeare all year. We did a timeline about William Shakespeare's life, and we have read ten of Shakespeare's plays. The Grade 3 kids got to about Shakespeare's death at each other in the gym, and we learned how to duel with swords. We went to see *Hamlet* and met the actor. We have made a Shakespeare Web site where we write our assignments here and we are going to put on the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We wrote you because we were worried that you think only high-school students should learn Shakespeare because it is so complicated, but it is not really complicated once you get into it.

Grade 2-3 class, Otis Park School (dedicated to William Shakespeare), Dartmouth, N.S.

Public-private debate

The reaction Barbara Arzuffi column "Why we need private medicine" (April 17) provoked (The Mail, May 1 and May 8) proves one of her point: doctors and nurses are becoming increasingly indifferent to the patient, Arzuffi

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Readers: 'brain' and 'mind'

man behaviour, I don't feel smarter after reading your piece. But I will approach the WCR that always waits 12 o'clock with renewed vigour, embracing both hemispheres for the challenge.

Patrick Conlon, Toronto

Your piece on psychologists Steven Pinker uses "brain" and "mind" with no apparent thinking that these two terms might designate different things. A similar confusion pervades Pinker's book *How the Mind Works*, which is philosophically naive and chock-full of logi-

Letters to the Editor

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give less than one-third of her column to truncating doctors and nurses and the rest to chronicling the dispiriting candidacies patients are subjected to. Was it these conditions that raised the blood pressure of these professionals? No. It was only the comments that concerned their own self-interest.

Craig Vennart, St. Catharines, Ont.

The challenge facing Barbara Aniel is to convince readers like me that her anecdotal evidence adds up to proof that Canada's medicare scheme should be changed to allow more private-public medicine. I polled a dozen of my friends, neighbors and colleagues, and to a person they report great satisfaction with medicare as they've encountered it, everything from hip and knee replacements to pacemakers, having babies, getting flu shots and access to specialists. The only conclusion I can safely make is that neither Aniel's evidence nor mine adds up to proof of anything. **Jack Gale**, Bedford, N.S.

I am a registered nurse who has lived and worked in the United States for 20 years. I moved to California because it was cold—too many winters in Montreal. Unlike Barbara Aniel, some of us don't choose careers for the purpose of becoming rich or to stroke our egos. Her insulting remarks only accentuate her own ignorance.

Bonnie Rankin, Portland, Ore.

Immersed in French

Thanks to popular French-immersion programs, many Canadian anglophones manage to communicate with francophones ("Translating success," *Education*, May 1). But what parents don't realize, as they don't speak French, is that the linguistic results of French immersion are poor. Immersion graduates speak rapidly, but they make frequent errors of the most basic kind. French immersion applies the strange idea that children should guess their way to knowledge by "discovery." This idea has yielded poor results in literacy,

math and other subjects. Much better results would be obtained with a single stream offering the option of immersion. Immersion begins at about age 10. At that age, they can still develop perfect pronunciation, and they are more focused and more responsive than younger children.

Robert Kennedy, retired professor of Applied Linguistics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

French-immersion graduates present a particular problem when they enrol in French courses at university. Compared with students who took French as a second language in high school, their oral skills are unquestionably superior. However, in many cases, fluency was achieved at the expense of accuracy. Graduates of the immersion program, convinced they are functionally bilingual, are shocked when told by their professors their French is unacceptable. Sadly, frustrated often often prove responsible to eliminate at that late stage.

Yvonne Walsh, Chairwoman, University of French Language and Literature, University of Victoria

Beer and nationalism

I read Charles Goforth's comments on Canadian nationalism and beer ("Let's hear it for Canada," May 1) with growing dismay: German nationalism and beer halls resulted in the darkest patriotism. Hopefully, we love our country more than we love our beer.

Martin C. Kuhn, Starn, Ore.

Every week, I look forward to the arrival of my *Mail*. You see, I was born and raised in Canada, but two years ago found myself part of the brain drain. Not only does *Maclean's* keep me well informed of Canadian events, people and issues, it preserves my passion and patriotism. Sometimes when I am done reading, I yearn to shout from the top of the Sears Tower: my name is Stephanie, and I am Canadian!

Stephanie Brownell, Chicago

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
With Shonda Dietel



'Not till a bit! Surely not!'

Lies and Statistics

Pants on fire

Faced with the eternal question of whether to pad a résumé, men have more trouble lighting the pipe than women. A study of randomly picked résumés of 500 men and 500 women by Infocheck Ltd.—a company that performs reference checks—found that men are less likely to embellish, as well as performing other inappropriate workplace deeds.

Of the 50 applicants who falsely listed degrees or diplomas

Men 7.2% Women 2.9%

Of the 117 applicants who had been dismissed/not eligible for rehire from their previous job

Men 7.6% Women 2.9%

Of the 81 applicants who had shown personality conflicts in their previous job

Men 8.4% Women 3.7%

Of the 93 applicants who had attendance/punctuality problems in their previous job

Men 7.6% Women 3.0%

Over and Under Achievers

Mark 'X' here for PM Celine!

Entertainment weekly: the scoop on Madonna, Metal-heads, the Boss and Clinton's choice of golfing partners!

◆ **Parodies and colonics about Moses's 'I am Canadian' act:** It's one 15 minutes ago. Drive on, all of you.

◆ **The Friendly Giant:** Quiet, dignified Robert Horne, 81, justies on. From an ex-hits chorale for all those years—and well-off Rasty and Jennie.

◆ **Jean Chrétien:** Guy who used to vow that, unlike Nelson Mandela, he'd never fish with George Bush, thanks in golf with Bill Clinton. So does that mean that a) fishing is bad, b) Bush is bad or c) PM would rather



Springsteen in Toronto: the wild and romantic meet the E Street Band

you forget what he said to say before getting the job...

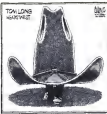
◆ **The Boss:** 50-year-old Bruce Springsteen temporarily mutes youth to up his hipsters with explosive two-night Toronto gig. Madmen, jump a little higher—but watch that slipped disc...

◆ **Metallica:** Defiantive heavy-metal head takes legal steps versus Metal-heads downloading their music for free. All hail the Kings of Casper's Back!

◆ **Celine Dion:** Full chosen act-off-mind, never scoring gap diva as best French-Canadian represents Canada to world. And Clinton would definitely golf with her!

Smile, Tom, You're on TV

Canadian Alliance leadership hopeful Tom Long has a gear Rolodex, lots of Tory Street support—and one big potential problem, according to some supporters: he looks ill-at-ease on television. Despite the 41-year-old Long's lengthy CV as a backroom organizer, his lack of experience in front of a camera is evident. Sources close to his camp say advisers are debating whether to bring in a media coach—or whether that would just make him more self-conscious. Not to worry: if he wins, he'll get better over time. And if he doesn't, it won't matter.



Life in the Vast Wasteland

A tale of two soaps

What's the formula for long-lasting TV acting success? There isn't one, if you judge by a cautionary comparison of two series of similar pedigree. In one, the cast flourished. In the other, their best days appear behind them.

Dawg: The extended 15 minutes of fame for the cast of *Beverly Hills 90210* comes to a close on May 17, in a final two-hour episode after 10 years on air. The once enviable group of rich, fan-loving beach bums are now fading.

Beverly Hills cast (below); Pepper (across) Madison cast (below right) are five



cosmetically enhanced, all-too-familiar adults. Two original stars, **Shannon Doherty** and Canadian **Jason Priestley**, bowed out early enough to salvage some pride—but there's little hope the others will enjoy similar post-*BH*.

Up: The award-winning Canadian melodrama *Madison*, about Vancouver teens, ran from 1993 to 1998 and was a great breeding ground for rising stars. Now, many of them are on the brink of Hollywood fame. Cast members have recently been seen on *ER*, *The X-Files*, *Treasure* and in big-budget films *Double Jeopardy*, *The Green Mile* and *Saving Private Ryan*. Currently **William Sasso** is on *MadTV*; **Chris Martin** is on *Foley* and **Barry Pepper** is co-starring in the sci-fi film *Battlefield Earth* opposite **John Travolta**.



Word Watch

Talk like a Hollywood director:

Abby shot: second-last shot of the day. Named after **Abby Singer**, former American assistant director, who used to call last shot of the day too early.

Window shot: Canadian name for the last shot of day. Crew members used to get paid in cash, so after that they would go to "window" to collect pay.

Martini shot: American name for the last shot of the day, origin of which is self-explanatory.

Magic hour: time just before sunset when light is richest.

Day for night: lighting process which alters lighting of scene on film, effectively turning day into night. **Frangois Truffaut** made a movie about making movies, called *Day for Night*.

Overbites

"The only thing that sticks here is you."

—Mike Harris responds to criticism from Ontario Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty at Queen's Park.

"We have more jobs than people. You have more people than jobs. The solution is simple."

—Michael LeBres, restaurant manager for the U.S.-based Denny's chain, explains why he came to Canada to recruit new employees at \$7.50 (U.S.) an hour, with temporary work permits.

Picture This! A Press Baron

Would you buy a used newspaper from this man? A painting of **Conrad Black** and his wife, **Michelle** (aka **Barbara Amiel**), by up-and-coming British artist **India-Jane Bailey**, is one of 10 pictures that recently went on display at Britain's National Portrait Gallery. The painting is part of the New Works exhibit in the NPG's Porter Gallery. Bailey is known for her paintings of both people and their pets. The painting was commissioned by gallery trustees.



Carl Mollins in London

What's wrong with being in the red?

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

The rumour capital

One thing about our national capital is this, for better and worse. Ottawa is a small town dressed up as a big city. In places like Montreal, Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver, enough people do enough different things that residents are always surprised when they bump into someone they know. Not so in Ottawa, where, despite the proliferation of high-tech industries, politicians, civil servants, lobbyists and journalists rule. For those who work in those fields, a walk on the Sparks Street pedestrian mall at midday is like free polo: the track is to continue in a straight line to your destination without being disrupted by an acquaintance. Go on any one of a half-dozen restaurants for lunch at dinner, and it's the same again.

That can be confounding or disconcerting. Life in a fiddlow involves an elaborate code of etiquette. One rule, for example, is that very often the people you are most polite to are the ones you most despise. Watch the elaborate courtesy with which, say, Joe Stewin will greet a journalist who dogged her recently. Neither rule is focused about her feelings, but rules are rules: she is objectively polite. The reverse is also common: politicians are often at their rudest in public to people who are friends in private. First-time visitors to Parliament Hill are often startled by the sight of MPs from different parties, who remain civil to one another in the House of Commons, making dinner plans together. You can disagree, but you both still live to eat.

It's striking to a former resident to revisit the city and be reminded of the importance of such rules. One occasion was the annual Politics and the Pen charity dinner last week, which brought together the usual suspects: donors, media, politicians and other components of the charming class. In the last few years, it has taken over from the now-released-and-boring Parliamentary Press Gallery dinner as the top occasion on which to meet and greet. For an evening, people act as though they really, really like each other sometimes, it's true. It's sort of the same with the various darts people dish it up: darts close where they originate or if they have a fixed basis, but that doesn't detract from the joy of passing them around. Knowing your staff, even if bogus, is better than no staff. Have you heard about how Transport Minister David Colborne will replace Roy MacLennan as high commissioner in London? The logic, dare I say it, is an act, superbly connected with, Tony, a former adviser to Jean Chrétien who now has a high-placed job working for publisher Glen Watson in Toronto, switch to the Watson family's London operation. Anything is at Ottawa, and the people who do aren't talking. And that's the big rush Southern Inc. is putting on *Globe and Mail* executive editor Edward Greenston to become editor-in-chief of the Ottawa *Citizen*—or

perhaps not. In either event, Greenston is far too eager to confirm or deny something like that.

Densbury columnist Gerry Trudeau coined the description "tag-sifting" to describe the practice by which journalists check out the importance of people before they decide if they're worth talking to. The sense is true at any Ottawa event—and the premium is on people who are both powerful and genuinely interesting. Peter Herndryk, now running the National Arts Centre, is one of the few who can shake out just as effectively in either Toronto or Ottawa. Paul Martin, who appears to actually enjoy these things, is everyone's target—especially since Chrétien, at PM, doesn't work like this anymore. The manager, Eddie Goldsmith, appears in his usual. And by the way, did we mention that Raymond Charbonneau is talking friends he will serve as ambassador to Washington in January? Perhaps. But that brings us to former U.S. ambassador James Blanchard, a Clinton intimate who, like his co-boss, is a great raconteur who never forgets a face or name. One of the few others who works a room as well as he does is his successor, Gordon Giffin, whose childhood in Montreal and Toronto gives him a leg up on Canadians who presume he is a spouse about the place. Told that someone grew up in the Montreal community of N D G, (Notre-Dame-de-Gatineau), Giffin responds: "Ahh, people call the place *Né Diner Good*." Correct, and only a Montrealer could know that.

The other interesting thing about such events is the link between who comes—and doesn't. In the traditional Ottawa calendar, this is one of the events that matters. No one of importance from the Canadian Alliance showed up—no large part because Preston Manning, Sackwell Day and others were in Toronto for a dinner honouring Mike Harris. But Joe Clark chose the Ottawa event. For those who care, these things are announced months in advance, so acceptance and continuance are more than casual decisions. Similarly, the Alliance will select a new leader on the weekend that includes June 24—which marks Québec's 50th anniversary, the 10th anniversary of the election of Chretien as Liberal leader, and the final collapse of the Meech Lake accord. Sackwell Day urged the Alliance to schedule the convention because of the Québec holiday. The party chose to stay with its original plan. Gary Gundy, custom and accommodation with tradition have always been among the ways federal politicians choose to do business. Ottawa is structured accordingly. The Alliance, like Reform before it, chooses otherwise. If they ever win power, the way the capital functions will change drastically. So will the country. That's bad news for Ottawa enthusiasts. Neither the past nor the future is what it used to be.

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Barbara Amiel

Responding to medicare mail

If I went by most of the letters my last column received, I'd have to say that *Maclean's* readers are a pathologically envious and dense lot. But most columnists know that the letters are rarely representative. Still, they must stand for some element in our body politic.

My column called for a rethink on our health system. I've been hospitalized about 28 times in the past three years in Canada, Britain and the United States. I receive a ton of mail from Canadians trying to get help with their medical problems. I'm also acquainted with Canadian doctors and nurses who have private deals that if one of them falls ill, the other will go on watch to avoid the problems they know only too well exist.

Virtually every letter said my "tone" only reflected that I was a wealthy and stingy person. How I live off the affluent so-called private medicine? "None W." Jon McCormick from Lone Baine, B.C. Carried away by their rampant envy and resentment, the letter writers seemed unable to see that wealthy and powerful people have the least self-interest in changing the present system. We're all right, Jack. The wealthy can go anywhere for the highest quality medical care. The key point is that whether I am right or wrong, my opinion can't possibly be based on self-interest. I'm concerned precisely about those who can't opt out because there is no private medicine in Canada and who haven't the resources to hop on a plane for a heart bypass in Houston.

A letter from Mary Lee Warren in Thunder Bay, Ont., praised a "Northern Health Travel Guide," which gave her "\$36.40 per day for transportation, food and accommodation, and other extras" for her trip as a "business" for surgery. It's amazing how that sum could cover more than travel by car, car and bread and cheese twice a day, but let me break the news to you, Ms. Warren: any private insurance company would give more than \$36.40 a day without crippling the entire Canadian economy and your own personal economy with confiscatory taxes.

Dozens of letters came from nurses irked by the notion that today's nursing assistants are not the top quality people they once were. This perceived insult stirred the only tears for them, Lucine Rogers, president of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, made her letter with the line, "When you are sick, it should not matter how rich you are or who you know." Thank you for making that point—it was the point of my column. You can either have a health-care system that looks well after everybody, which is clearly the most desirable, or you can have a health-care system that looks well after some people, such as the rich or well-connected, or you can have a health-care system that looks well after nobody in

the name of equality. It never ceases to amaze me that so many Canadians appear to opt for this third solution.

The letters from Canadian doctors were equally scolding. Dr. Brian Sproule from Edmonton asked "Why, with her wealth, power and influence did Amiel not move her doctor's father-in-law into the well-established private system in Britain?" (I had written that he died at a National Health Service hospital quicker than he should have because of deliberate inattention to the elderly to fine up beds.) Well, thanks Dr. Sproule. You seem to agree that the public health care in Britain has deteriorated. So does the Labour government, which last week announced that elderly people are to be sent to private facilities because of overcrowding in public hospitals. But Sproule goes on to claim it is the private system that led to the deterioration of the public health system. Why? Until someone provides me with evidence on how private medicine erodes the public system considering that (a) in Canada there is virtually no private medicine and yet the public system is in fine fettle, and (b) most of the letters without simply making money is the last thing on the busy doctor's mind, one ought to be forgiven for thinking that Dr. Sproule and like-minded physicians are totally incapable of proving their case. They are simply committed to a mixture of socialism and opportunism.

Dr. Jan Raszczki in Chatham, Ont., asserts that many of our best doctors are quietly going about their work in "small-town Canada" and hounds a "ghost" that those who have fled are "disfranchised doctors." I'm not for a moment suggesting that every doctor who doesn't go to the United States is second-rate, and if I believed this I would be as silly as Dr. Raszczki who says that many of those who do go there are among the most "talented, opportunistic, hardworking." But there is no denying that doctors, nurses, bookkeepers, engineers and so on will choose the more congenial and well-mannered employment available to them.

Most other countries that started much earlier with socialized medicine—like Britain—have come to realize it is a seriously flawed system and the incentive has changed directions. Canada is still chugging along the other way. Ultimately I am advancing three things. First, that we recognize there is a serious problem with our system of health care. Second, we have a public discourse unencumbered by preconceived notions of half-digested egalitarianism and medical idealism. And, finally, we arrive at some new health-care system. I can't say in advance what it will be—probably a mixture of private and public insurance with a firm safety net and a flexibility for Canadians to find a level of care for themselves that they find comfortable.



Canada and the World

Going Ballistic

Tempers are flaring over Washington's plans to pursue a new missile-defence system

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

One morning in late June, if everything goes as planned, the United States air force will launch a missile from a base in California and send it streaking west across the Pacific Ocean. Twenty minutes later, another American missile will head east from an island in the remote Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific. Two-and-a-half minutes after that, a 54-kg device known as a "kill vehicle" will separate from the second rocket and head in on the missile speeding from California. If the experts' calculations are correct, the kill ve-

hicle and the missile will collide at a combined speed of 24,000 km/h—resembling both 325 km above the ocean.

That will be the third—and most crucial—step of a system that Washington hopes will eventually shield Americans from a rocket-tipped missile fired by a hostile state like North Korea or Iraq. The idea is to show that the United States can accomplish the remarkable technical feat of using one missile to knock another out of the sky. To its supporters, developing a so-called national missile defense is essential to U.S. security in a post-Cold War age of unpredictable and shifting threats. To its many critics, including U.S. allies in Europe and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, it is a dangerous and destabilizing step towards a new global arms race—the sequel to the much-mooted Reagan-era "Star Wars" plan. With key decisions fast approaching, the long-dormant debate is taking off with the speed of a ballistic missile. Within weeks of the June 30, President Bill Clinton must decide whether to green-light the project—if it is to be in place by the target date of 2005.

For Canada, the looming deadline is fueling a controversy

that is a variation on the perennial question: how closely should Ottawa follow Washington's lead in military matters? For weeks, U.S. officials have been probing subtle, and sometimes not-so-subtle, pressure on Canada to back the new missile scheme—or at least to ease its public criticism. Senior Americans have travelled to Ottawa to reassure Canada that, in the words of former deputy defence secretary John Hulse, "this is not Star Wars II." And last week, the deputy commander of U.S. Space Command, Vice Admiral Herbert Brown, made the far-fetched suggestion that Washington might stand by if a missile was fired at Canada. If Ottawa doesn't sign up for NMD, Brown asked, then "why take our missile and protect this one-participant nation? That makes absolutely no sense."

It was Brown's suggestion, of course, that makes no sense. "The U.S. isn't going to stand by and watch something fly by on its way to Canada be-

cause it offends the fabric of the whole relationship."

In fact, Ottawa is already moving quietly to accommodate the Americans. Even as Axworthy continues his public criticism of NMD, Defense Minister Art Eggleton is leading a behind-the-scenes campaign by his department to lay the groundwork for some kind of Canadian participation. American officials say it would be "logical" for the command-and-control center of the new system to be run by Norad, the 42-year-old joint continental air defence structure headquartered in Cheyenne Mountain, Colo. Even though the current Norad agreement does not expire until next year, the federal cabinet in Ottawa has already agreed to renew it for another five years. The early agreement ensures that renewal of an alliance that Canada's military sees as crucial to its future co-operation with the United States will not become directly tangled with the missile debate.

Critics have a host of problems with NMD. It will cost U.S. taxpayers a bundle (estimates range from \$25 billion [U.S.] to \$60 billion [U.S.] over 15 years), probably won't work as planned, and is designed to counter a danger that critics say is tiny at best while providing no protection against such threats as chemical attacks or nuclear bombs being smuggled into the United States. But the biggest issue for U.S. allies is that NMD threatens the global balance of nuclear forces, as codified in existing arms-control treaties—periodically, Washington's 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty with Russia.

That treaty, driven by the old Cold War logic of "mutual assured destruction" or MAD, forbids either side from developing large-scale missile defences. The thinking was that attempts to defend against missiles would just prompt the other side to build more and more weapons to overwhelm the shield. Axworthy, at a recent United Nations arms-control conference, issued this caveat while endorsing Washington's plan: "It does involve precipitating an arms race that could result in the expansion of nuclear weapons."

Clinton will try to soothe Russia in early June, before he must decide whether to go ahead with NMD. At a summit in Moscow set for June 4, Clinton will try to work out a deal with Russia's new president, Vladimir Putin, to amend the ABM treaty to allow for the new system. Documents prepared by the Pentagon, and made public in late April by *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, show that Washington is eager to show Moscow that it need not for NMD. The new system would be so modest, they say, that Russia's nuclear arsenal could easily overwhelm it—even if



Axworthy, a Revision army KCM SS-25 missile at a military base near Jelenk, Siberia (above left): a dangerous step towards a new global arms race

cause it's pegged with Ottawa," notes Anthony Gordinier of Washington Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's ridiculous."

But if the critics are right, the Americans are decidedly ticked at their allies for failing to back missile defence as they head into a very summit meeting with Moscow on the issue. The Russians are strongly opposed to Washington's plans—and the Americans feel that open criticism from Ottawa undermines them at a crucial moment and emboldens other critics in Europe. "It would be a mistake to analyze this as a debate over just another defence system," U.S. Ambassador Gordon Giffin told *Maclean's* last week. "It is bigger than that. It will mark a significant evolution in the historic defence relationship between us. And if that defence relationship erodes in a meaningful way, it

WASHINGTON
by John

the two countries reduce their warheads to about 200 each from current levels of about three times that number under arms-control talks known as START III. "Forces of this size can easily penetrate a limited system of the type that the United States is now developing," Washington said in the documents presented to Moscow.

One point Clinton is sure to make is that his plan falls far short of the ambitious Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars program, launched by Ronald Reagan in 1983. SDI involved developing plans for space-based weapons designed to shield the United States from hundreds of incoming Soviet missiles. American scientists could never make it work—but they went through some \$50 billion (U.S.) in taxpayer money before Clinton officially cancelled SDI in 1993.

The whole idea seemed dead—until 1993. But in July of that year, a congressional committee warned that several so-called rogue states (North Korea, Iraq and Iran) were developing weapons that could threaten the United States by the middle of this decade. The next month, with euphoria rising, North Korea fired a missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean, and U.S. intelligence agencies reported that it was developing a more powerful rocket



Strategic defence initiative Washington might stand by if a missile never fired in Canada

resemble the threat posed by Chinese missiles to Taiwan. J. Loe, Washington hopes to build a second site in North Dakota, outfitted with 100 more interceptors. Missile-tracking radar stations in the United States, Greenland and northern England would be upgraded, and satellites equipped with special tracking sensors would be put in orbit. Even with all that, NMD officials acknowledge that the system is "high-risk"—a technical challenge of the same complexity as the Apollo moon-landing program.

In briefings with Canadian officials, U.S. experts have made it clear their plans do not call for radar stations (or those interceptors needed) to be based in Canada—although Canadian cities would effectively be defended by a continental shield. But the most obvious place to put the command centre for the new system would

be at Norad, where Canadian officials at alongside that U.S. counterparts to defend North American airspace.

If Canada signs on to missile defence, it might well get a seat at the table. If it doesn't, the United States could simply co-ordinate it out of other offices at Cheyenne Mountain—which is also headquarters of U.S. Space Command. "If we opt out of missile defence, it makes the future of Norad very doubtful," warns Douglas Foster, executive director of the Canadian Council for International Peace and Security.

That's why Canada's defence department is so anxious at Assembly for keeping up his public dialogue against Washington missile plans. Led by Jim Judd, one of Ottawa's most capable defence ministers, the department has taken an aggressive stance, which holds that issues bearing on Canada-U.S. relations should not be run exclusively by Foreign Affairs. Defence felt shooed aside in 1997 when Assembly sponsored Canada's effort for a global nuke-banning treaty, and in 1998 when he headed efforts to set up a world criminal court—initiatives that angered Washington. "We have decided that there is a line of issues where we should not wait for Foreign Affairs to define the Canadian interest," says a senior Defence official. "And they are not used to it."

Aside from the squabbles between departments, how the issue is handled in Ottawa will say a lot about Canada's relationship with the United States. Certainly, the Americans are watching closely. "This is a test in the eyes of Americans as to whether Canadians trust North American security with real concerns," says David Rudik, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies. "They ask themselves are the Canadians really reliable?" They'll get their answer soon.

With Bruce Walker in Ottawa

UN peacekeepers captured

Rebels in Sierra Leone killed four United Nations peacekeepers from Zambia and took 300 UN personnel captive. The UN peacekeeping force for Sierra Leone was dispatched in January to oversee a ceasefire and peace agreement to end an eight-year civil war in which the rebels killed thousands and raped and maimed tens of thousands more. Soldiers from the rebel Revolutionary United Front have clashed repeatedly with UN peacekeeping troops in the war-torn African nation. The four Canadian peacekeepers in the country were believed to be safe.

Bombs across the border

Lebanese and Hizbollah guerrillas based in Lebanon exchanged fire, with Israeli jets shelling guerrilla bases and Lebanese power outstations and the guerrillas launching rocket attacks against Israeli villages. The hostilities ended five days of isolated fighting since Israeli withdrawals on July 7 from its buffer zone in southern Lebanon. Israel and the puffed-out peace process, but promised harsh retaliation to any attacks on its northern towns.

Crisis in Zimbabwe

President Robert Mugabe insisted angrily to criticism from Commonwealth leaders, including Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, of his handling of the country's land crisis. Since February, at least 15 people have been killed and more than 1,000 white-owned farms occupied by squatters led by self-styled veterans of the country's war of independence. Mugabe said he would not order the squatters off the farms, and said Zimbabwe will take, in whatever way is feasible, half of the 12 million hectares held by whites.

People-smuggling arrests

U.S. authorities said they smashed an international people-smuggling ring, arresting five Canadian citizens in the process. The Canadians, described as middlemen by U.S. government spokesmen, allegedly helped to arrange passage for illegal Chinese migrants to North America. U.S. sources also said that Chinese government officials may be implicated in the operation.

'Red Ken' returns to rule over London

Leftist Ken Livingstone overcame what he described as a "vile campaign" against him to become London's first elected mayor. Livingstone, 54, known as "Red Ken" for his outspoken opposition to prime minister Margaret Thatcher in the mid-1980s, ran as an independent and won 38 per cent of the popular vote, compared with 26.5 per cent for the second-place Conservative candidate. His victory was a slap in the face for Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose Labour Party ceased the new office of mayor (London was previously governed by 32 individual boroughs and several citywide authorities). The Labour Party's candidate was Frank Dobson, Blair's former health secretary, who finished third; while Livingstone announced in March that he also intended to run for the mayoralty, Blair expelled him from the party. During the campaign, the prime minister, who has tried to make his party more centrist, even advised in Livingstone and his colleagues as a "raging of Tynes."

For Red Ken, the victory marked a return to the stage where he first gained prominence as the head of the Greater London Council before it was disbanded by Thatcher in 1986.

"The voters' verdict is clear," he said, "whatever my personal views."

The Lockerbie trial begins

The trial of two Libyans charged with the Dec. 21, 1988, bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, got under way in a special setting of a Scottish court in the Netherlands. The two defendants, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Al-Anwar Khalfi Fikham, have pleaded not



Livingstone celebrating 'raging of Tynes'

"As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted 14 years ago," Livingstone joked about his return. Under his leadership, the council declared the capital a nuclear-free zone, made common cause with IRA supporters and backed gay rights. And during the recent campaign, Livingstone claimed the policies of international financiers had killed as many people as Adolf Hitler.

Livingstone's victory was not the only setback for Labour. The country-wide municipal elections were seen as a referendum on Blair's three-year-old government, and the prime minister's party lost ground to the opposition Conservatives. As for Red Ken, Blair promised to work with the new mayor.

guilty to killing all 259 people on board and 11 townspeople on the ground. The defendants say radical Palestinian groups were behind the bombing, while the prosecution alleges the men are members of Libya's intelligence agency. The trial, which is being held in the Netherlands because that was one of the jurisdictions under which Libya gave up the two suspects, is expected to last from more than 1,000 prosecution witnesses alone and last at least a year.

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World Notes

Some hostages freed

In the Philippines, 11 soldiers died as government troops rescued 25 Filipino hostages who had been held captive by the Abu Sayaf rebel group for more than 40 days on the island of Basilan. Four of the hostages were found murdered, and the rebel group is still holding another 21, including 10 foreign tourists, who were kidnapped on April 23 from a Malaysian diving resort. So far, clashes between government soldiers and rebels on the island of Mindanao have killed 35 people and forced 10,000 others from their homes. But at week's end, another separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said it wanted to give peace a chance and declared a 96-hour ceasefire.

Fifth woman executed

Christina Marie Riggs became the first woman executed in Arkansas since 1845 and the fifth woman executed in the United States since 1976, when the Supreme Court lifted the ban on capital punishment. Riggs, a 28-year-old former nurse, was convicted of murder after she injected her two children with potassium chloride before suffocating them. She then attempted to commit suicide by swallowing 28 antidepressant pills. Riggs blamed the 1997 murders on depression caused by meeting victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Outrage over spy trial

In a controversial trial that has been denounced around the world, two more Iranian Jews confessed to spying for Israel. Shabtai Fishkoff, 30, a religion teacher, and Ramin Norouziadeh, 27, a shop clerk, told a court in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz that they had passed secrets to Israel's intelligence service, Mossad. A third man had made the same confession earlier during the trial of 13 Iranian Jews accused of communicating with Israel, which is banned under Iran's laws. Anyone convicted of spying can be sentenced to death.

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Uprising of the Patriotes

On the Gaspé, local residents have decided not to take the peninsula's economic problems lying down

By Brenda Beauséjour

Navigating the steep, tight curves on the Gaspé coast, Gaspé Langlais seems every bit the professor as he sits behind the wheel and launches into a sober, detailed explanation of the region's woes. But within minutes, indignation crops into his voice. Economically, he says, the Gaspé is like a plane locked in a final spin. "We're coming to the bottom of the spiral," laments Langlais, who teaches business at a local junior college, the CEGEP de la Gaspésie et des Îles in the city of Gaspé. As a zenki, he and several other residents banded together in l'Action des patriotes gaspésien(ne)s last December to promote their economic plight. The fledgling movement immediately struck a

chord. Membership has already soared to 12,000 people, who refer to themselves as *les patriotes*—not after the militant insurgents associated with the 1837 rebellion in Lower Canada, but, as Langlais explains, for "someone who loves their homeland."

There is much to love on the rugged peninsula, with its winding coastline and mountains. Most of the Gaspé's 120,000 residents live in towns that hug the coast, some of them breathtaking spots such as Percé, with its famous massive rock jutting up from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But for all its natural beauty, the Gaspé also lays claim to the second-highest unemployment rate in Canada—a staggering 24.2 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. The region is still reeling from two major setbacks. Last October, Alcan-Consolidated Inc. closed its newspaper plant in Chandler on the tip of the peninsula, leaving more than 550 people out of work and a town without its lifeline. Two weeks earlier, 300 mines lost their jobs when Noranda Inc. shut down an copper mine in Murdochville because of depleted reserves. "The Gaspé is going through one of the worst crises in its history," says Guy Lefebvre, a native Gaspésien and Parti Québécois MNA for the region.

Which likely explains the *patriotes* appeal. "I think people are desperate enough that they are going to jump on anything," says Stephen Tibbitts, academic adviser for the English sector of the Gaspé CEGEP, which has 170 students. But the *patriotes* bardsong is also delivering scores. The

Percé rock: a region that has been left reeling from a number of setbacks

organization has been promised a hearing before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and hopes to air its grievances this month—accusing Ottawa and Québec of "economic genocide." For Langlais, the proof of different governments' neglect lies in the past three decades. "It's been 30 years that we've put together structural projects and they never got off the ground," says Langlais, whose organization also hopes to file a class-action lawsuit against the provincial and federal governments.

Skeptics note that some of the *patriotes* leaders, mostly businessmen, have benefited themselves from government subsidies over the years. Others question the group's chances for long-term success. "It's good to shout—it wakes people up," says Michel St-Pierre, the mayor of Chandler. "But it doesn't go far." Still, the *patriotes* complaints resonate with Gaspésien-Canadiens, with its 3,500 residents and cozy, well-tended bungalows, was long one of the Gaspé's most prosperous towns. Mill workers earned an average of \$48,000 a year at Alcan-Consolidated's newspaper plant. Then came the October shutdown. St-Pierre says the city became poor overnight; some 45 homes are now up for sale in the area. "Houses are now selling for 30 per cent less than the municipal valuation," he laments.

Major stacks of logs still lie outside the closed plant. Several proposals are in the works to buy the factory from Alcan-Consolidated, Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard recently declared it a priority to get the plant running again. "In my opinion," says St-Pierre, "but the problem is when?" Even if new owners come in, he says, it will take two years to transform the factory to produce a different type of paper. And in the meantime, people are leaving. Michel David is one of 200 Chandler mill workers who have gone to find work elsewhere. His wife, Laraine, and their two daughters, the older 8, the younger an eight-month-old baby, will live in Chandler while David works in Montreal at a steel cable factory—and undertakes the 11-hour drive home once a month to see them. "I have no choice," says David, 35, of his relocation. "If I stay at home, we'll lose everything anyway."

In the nearby village of Newport, the mayor and some municipal councillors have also left for jobs in Adhesion in the Eastern Townships and Montreal. The large, modern fish plant on the water's edge, which opened with great fanfare in 1987, is a striking reminder of the town's better days. The assembly-line zone looks frozen in time, after being shut down seven years ago because of the 1993 Atlantic cod moratorium that decimated the Gaspé's fishing industry. "It's like the Titanic," laments Walter Smith, the village's director

general, referring to the silent, empty plant. "Everything is modern and nice but everything is dead inside. It's terrible." And, he adds, "If I had a piece of advice to give to anybody in the world it would be to be careful of a single industry. Try to diversify to give yourself security."

Diversify. It's almost a mantra among many Gaspésiens. Evelyn Dubé, the president of the chamber of commerce in the coastal town of Grande-Rivière, says her organization now promotes the idea of more entrepreneurship in the area. "Governments tell us to take charge of things," says Dubé. "That's not bad—but they have to help us." Dubé adds that many government subsidies have been diked out in the region, but not necessarily in the right places. She and many other Gaspésiens say future money should go into long-lasting projects with permanent jobs. For example, instead of fish and lumber being shipped out of the region, Dubé says, those primary resources could be transformed into other products—in the Gaspé.

Some Gaspésiens continue to carve out a living in traditional ways. And even at that, they've had to adapt. Réginald Corneau, 49, a licensed cod fisherman, still owns a 16-m trailer in Rivière-au-Renard, a picturesque village on the north side of the Gaspé. During the five-year cod moratorium, he fished for turbot in Newfoundland. When that didn't prove worthwhile, he started catching shrimp. The cod moratorium was partially lifted last year, but Corneau says the new quotas translate into fewer than two fishing trips a year. To boost his catch, he rents other people's shrimp quotas in the area as well as in Newfoundland and Labrador, paying them a fee

to rent their catch. "I spend the winter on the phone," says Corneau. "It's the only way to get ahead." Even at that, Corneau, who is set for 18 weeks a year, finds it increasingly difficult to earn a living. "What I find these days is that you have to fight to hard."

That battle is claiming many victims—including the Gaspé's young people, many of whom are seeking out for greener pastures. Brian Jones returned to the Gaspé with his wife in 1979 after studying in Montreal. But he doesn't expect their two teenage children to remain on the coast. "At one time, I would have liked to tell the kids, 'I hope you can come back because it's a choice we made,'" says Jones, 47, who is on the *patriotes* executive. But in the current economic climate, he wouldn't advise them to stay. "You always give optimism," says Jones, a soft-spoken businessman. "I wish I could still have that." But optimism now seems in short supply in the Gaspé. ■



Langlais looking out at both Ottawa and Québec City

No ordinary campers

By Sonja Sinclair

On a sunny June day last year, an elderly man and his wife wielded barbecued shovels as they turned the first sod for a major addition to the University of Toronto's Varsity College. What was unusual about the event was not so much the magnitude of the planned theatre-run-lecture-hall as the background of the man who was donating \$6 million to have it built.

Alfred Bader landed in Canada 60 years ago, a penniless 16-year-old Jewish refugee from Vienna. Since then, he has graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., earned a chemistry doctorate from Harvard and started a Milwaukee-based business that he built up into

they did not even know where they were going until they found themselves settling up the St. Lawrence River in July, 1940. Nor did the Canadian government know what to do with these German and Austrian nationals, who the British government had rounded up as potential fifth columnists from their coastal sea homes and shipped across the Atlantic. Ottawa was expecting prisoners of war—instead they got a handful of Nazi sympathizers, plus nearly 2,300 refugees, most of them Jewish, many of them in their teens.

"What we have to do," warned the

New Brunswick two to three years later, is go to school or assist the war effort. More than 70 became university professors, including two Nobel Prize winners, and collectively they received more honorary degrees than anyone has dared to count. Of the nearly 1,000 who chose to remain in Canada, doctors have contributed to Canada's cultural life as authors, musicians and scientists, and at least nine have been named members or officers of the Order of Canada. The list includes Gregory Baum, one of the country's foremost theologians, former manager of the Toronto Symphony

A unique group of Jewish refugee immigrants has contributed greatly to life in Canada

one of the world's foremost suppliers of research chemicals. Later, he established an international art dealership, which now handles some 200 paintings a year, including multimillion-dollar masterpieces by Rembrandt and Rubens. In addition to Bader's generous donations to Varsity College, his wife's alma mater, he has given, over the years, some \$30 million to Jewish



Interment camp near Sherbrooke, Que. Ottawa was expecting prisoners of war—instead they got a handful of Nazi sympathizers, plus nearly 2,300 refugees, most of them Jewish.

Bader's success story is one of many experienced by a group of men, now in their 70s and 80s, who will hold a cultural reunion in Toronto on May 13. They are among the most unusual immigrants to arrive in Canada. For one thing, they did not ask to come. In fact,

immigration director at the time, F.C. Blair, "is protect Canada against the release of these people here." No doubt Blair would be surprised to learn what became of "these people" after the government released them from the internment camps in Quebec, Ontario and

Walter Homburger, Vancouver architect Peter Oberlander and Helmut Kallmann, co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*.

Inevitably, the number of those still alive is dwindling. Gone are McGill University's dean of music Helmut



Blum; University of Alberta English professor and author Henry Krieger; Franz Kramarz, the former head of music at the Canada Council; and piano virtuoso John Newmark, considered one of the world's top accompanists. Also long gone is Max Stern, who virtually discovered Emily Carr, exhibited 60 of her paintings in his Montreal art gallery and sold 54 of them.

Among the surviving "camp boys," there are three in particular who exemplify the career paths of the prominent ex-interns: All were Austrian born, all were teenagers at the time of their arrival, and all became math and science graduates of Canadian universities.

A pioneer in the development and application of computer software, Josef Kates, 79, joined the University of Toronto's brand-new computer center after graduation in 1948, then went on to found a company which developed Metropolitan Toronto's computerized traffic-control system, the first of its kind in the world. "Most people thought computers could do some things," says Kates. "I thought computers could do anything." That included working out a way of eliminating the huge bookends that plagued the St. Lawrence Seaway in

Kates today and at 17 (right): from potential fifth columnist to computer software pioneer

the early days of its operation. To top his career, Kates became chairman of the Soccer Council of Canada and chancellor of the University of Waterloo.

For Fred Kaufman, 76, the highlight of his working life so far has been heading the commission of inquiry into the reasons for the wrongful murder conviction of Guy Paul Morin, who was twice convicted of murdering a nine-year-old girl outside Toronto before being exonerated as a result of DNA evidence. Having failed to find a job related to the B.Sc. he earned at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Que., Kaufman headed west as a reporter for the *Montreal Star*. After watching laymen in court, he decided he could do equally well, maybe better. Despite the fact that, in the 1950s, one could not practice law in Quebec without a B.A., he went to McGill to get that degree and around law school at the same time. It was, he recalls, a brutal couple of years. He practiced law for 18 years, then was appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal and, following his retirement in



1981, went to Toronto on behalf of the World Bank to represent representations to the country's law society. In 1996, he and his Ontario-born wife, Donna, decided to move to Toronto to be closer to their adult children. A month later, the province asked him to take on the Morin inquiry. Now, he heads a Nova Scotia inquiry into sexual and physical abuse at provincial youth training and residential centres.

An 18-year-old just out of camp, Walter Kahn had to be raised in 1941 to catch up to his University of Toronto math and physics classmates. Yet after graduation, Kahn went on to a doctorate at Harvard and eventually a professorship at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he won the 1988 Nobel Prize for chemistry and remains a professor emeritus.

"Therein," says ex-intern Eric Koch, a former CBC executive named novelist, "is mythology about the camp boys having been exceptional—actually the vast majority are ordinary people leading ordinary lives." Perhaps, but many of their achievements are far from ordinary. Still, most ex-interns reject any suggestion that their success was triggered by a determination to succeed in the face of adversity. "I would not call Canadian camps adversity," protests Edgar Sarson, an economic consultant, writer and one of many who lost their parents in the Holocaust.

Forgotten, it seems, is the frustration at being held against their will and against all reason, the lack of understanding and, sometimes, outright hostility on the part of individuals assigned to guard them. Instead, the "boys" at their mission will no doubt remember the camaraderie, the opportunity to meet people from different walks of life, the lectures provided by some of their most brilliant fellow inmates. "I became a man then," recalls Baum. "I discovered I was intelligent." Adds Sarson: "It was like Oxford and Cambridge rolled into one." A slight exaggeration, no doubt, but why quarrel with nostalgia? ■

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NO ORDINARY PHONE.

Jail time for Ramsay

The Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatoon sentenced Alberta MP Jack Ramsay, 62, to nine months in jail after he was convicted of attempting to rape a 16-year-old girl in 1969. Ramsay was an RCMP officer in Pelican Narrows, Sask., when the assault took place. Ramsay's lawyer filed a notice to appeal, and Ramsay said he will continue to sit in the House of Commons as an Independent.

Former foster mom spared jail

Valerie Heta, who was convicted in March of sexual exploitation after she romantized a 16-year-old girl in her foster care, received a six-month conditional sentence and 100 hours of community service. Heta, 32, has separated from her husband and lives with the former foster child, now 18, in Kamloops, B.C.

Pushing through Bill 11

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's Conservative government voted to end debate of Bill 11, the province's controversial health-care legislation that proposes to expand the private sector's role in providing surgical services. Klein now says he expects the bill to move into third and final reading this week and be fully implemented by fall.

Deadly play

Three children—two girls and a boy between two and seven years old, from two different families—died after they accidentally locked themselves in a storage trunk, apparently while playing hide-and-seek, in Berne, Ont., 85 km north of Toronto. Police do not suspect foul play.

Recognition for Clayoquot

Clayoquot Sound, a spectacular area of old-growth forest on the west coast of Vancouver Island, was declared a United Nations biosphere reserve, a place for sustainable economic development, research, education and training. The designation was celebrated as a victory by environmentalists, who vigorously protested logging there in the 1980s and early 1990s, culminating in the massive civil disobedience in 1993 called the War in the Woods.

A Tory ultimatum—or maybe not

It was enough to make some Tories see red. Last week, the *National Post* ran a story saying that members of the Conservative party had given leader Joe Clark an ultimatum: turn around the party's flagging fortunes in the face of the new threat from the Canadian Alliance party, or face a full-scale revolt. Nonetheless, said Conservative MPs as they held a news conference in Ottawa, "We listened as hell and we're not going to take it anymore—there was no ultimatum, there was no discussion," declared caucus chairman Rick Bonczuk. "That is an out-and-out lie," said deputy leader Elie Wajns of the



Wajns (left), Mackenzie out in force

newspaper story. *National Post* editor Ken Whyte, who has been one of the main forces behind the unite-the-eight movements, acknowledged that his paper had made a slight error: the ultimatum was, he claimed, presented to Clark—but not at last Wednesday's caucus meeting, as the paper had reported. "Substantially" Whyte said, "the story is correct."

Even if it wasn't, Clark's Tories continue to feel the heat. The Alliance, now in the middle of a high-profile leadership campaign, has been actively riding Conservative marks, and last week Clark himself acknowledged that

his party's hemorrhaging of members is likely to continue even as another government: Tory, former Melrose cabinet minister John Epp, jumped ship. "The sure thing will be more members of the Progressive Conservative party that will be going off to support one or another of the leadership candidates," he said. Those candidates were out in full force last week at a fund-raising dinner for Premier Mike Harris's Ontario Tories. Former Reform party leader Preston Manning worked the crowd, along with Social Day, who is on leave from his job as Alberta Treasurer and last week got

Epp's support. But the warmest welcome was reserved for Tom Loe, the former backroom Tory who helped orchestrate Harris's rise to power and is now mounting an Ontario challenge to the two western front-runners.

Critics said Clark should have attended the dinner as well—to show the federal Tory flag and face off against the most active trying to dislodge his mark. But the former prime minister passed on the opportunity, preferring instead to attend a function in Ottawa, mounted by the women's group PEN to raise funds for imprisoned journalists.

A rare smuggling

Canadian and U.S. law-enforcement officials say they were shocked to discover Canada has been at the centre of the largest firearms-smuggling operation in North American history. And in a reversal of the common trend, the guns were being smuggled into the United States from Canada. In Toronto last week, police from both sides of the border displayed samples of the nearly

25,000 foreign U.S. military firearms seized from Toronto and Montreal gun shops. The guns, which included 1,700 rifle barrels in those used in the Korean War, were destined for Reno, Nev. (The vintage guns are legal in Canada, but illegal in the United States.) In Mexico, 36 of Toronto faces several charges, including firearms trafficking. Police also issued a warrant for Melvin Bishop, 63, of Reno, a U.S. air force veteran.

Better Ways to Create Jobs

By Mary Juriga

Off welfare. happily ensconced in an insurance agency job, Dennis Reimer now has the incredible luxury of dreaming. A former sales representative for a paint company, Reimer was living with his elderly parents last year, desperately looking for just about any work, when he approached the nonprofit Opportunity for Employment Inc. The Winnipeg organization, founded in 1996 by three groups including the Manitoba Central Committee, enrolled him in its grueling two-month computer training program. Then, after two weeks of coaching, they signed him up for Manitoba's week-long insurance brokers' course. They even found a data-entry job for him, which he has held since last August, at a downtown insurance agency. "I got in such a state, being on welfare, but OFE made me believe in myself again," says Reimer, 44. "Now, I could go into a career in an insurance or become a broker and eventually own my own business. There are so many doors that could open."

Reimer remains astonished that he was able to find a new career with only three months of expertly customized training. His mentor, OFE, receives funds from Manitoba's family services department—and from its training department, which, in turn, will get almost \$50 million in 2000-2001 from scandal-plagued Human Resources Development Canada. Reimer is well aware of the federal department's ongoing difficulties with poorly documented grants to projects of occasionally dubious quality. "But it didn't really bother me too much," he says, "because I knew at least one of



Dubbyn-Nadivins with a statue of Willie. "We are dependent on those grants. It's a big economic boost."

their investments was a good one."

Unfortunately, examples like Reimer are far too few. The problem is that HRDC devotes too many resources to outright grants and contributions to employers—strategic investments—and too little to programs, like Reimer's customized training, that ease Canadians into full-time jobs in the labour market of the 21st century. So far, public attention in the HRDC upsurge has focused mainly on individual federal projects that lacked sufficient scrutiny, particularly those among the \$110-million Canada Jobs Fund and its predecessor, the Transitional Jobs Fund.

But the controversy should also focus attention on a far more fundamental problem: the very concept of these programs—and the structure of the department itself. Most experts believe that schemes such as the Canada Jobs Fund, which ladders out cash directly to employers in consultation with local MPs, represent one of the least effective ways to use public funds to create jobs. Nonetheless, Ottawa poured \$1 billion into a hodgepodge of grants and contributions, including the CJE, funding everything from start-up grants for youth businesses to research on the needs of rural communities. Many programs are not even linked to job creation—because the department's mandate is all aspects of "human resources."

Despite the glowing claims of HRDC's embattled minister Jane Stewart, the results are decidedly mixed. Some programs—which are given out at the discretion of 23,000 civil servants and their political masters—promote admirable causes such as aboriginal literacy. Some fund social programs such as early childhood education or a \$20,000 effort aimed at "integrating women in northern fisheries." Others are first-order crutches to employers, including large corporations.

In many cases, such as the Canada Jobs Fund, politics played a pivotal role in project selection. And, because there are dozens of programs and hundreds of grants, HRDC officials privately admit that it is almost impossible to monitor them. "Many of these programs are simply slash fends to reward MPs because they have no power," says Queen's University economist Tom Courchene. "This is the economics of politics. We should be putting our resources into a bill of rights for kids that spurs their right to develop and enhance their knowledge for the 21st century."

Part of the challenge lies in the structure of the federal de-

Critics say the real scandal in Ottawa's employment program is the system itself



Stewart defends HRDC to Parliament. Ottawa pours \$1 billion into a hodgepodge of benefits

performing an in-depth audit on four programs—including the CJE and its predecessor—which heard oral testimony from 1227 witnesses. He will release his report this October.

The results will probably be disturbing. More than 20 years ago, even before he was principal secretary to prime minister Pierre Trudeau in the early 1980s, Thomas Asoodby believed fervently in such regional development schemes as the CJE. Now, as a Harvard University public policy professor, he says it would be far better to put the money into training programs that were selected by neighbourhood development corporations that, in turn, assess at arm's length from their local MPs' meddling. Ottawa could also use the money to allow employers to set up their own co-entrant training funds, similar to registered retirement savings plans, that could be used to fund lifelong learning.

The federal government should confine its role, Asoodby adds, to gathering information on future job requirements, researching better ways to upgrade skills—and making that data available to other governments and agencies. "We have totally failed in the way that we try to use public funds to change the economic circumstances of higher unemployment places," he says bluntly. "I bet that we could have a 30-to-40 per cent increase in effectiveness if we went about things differently. We should cut the MPs out from that old patronage role. And we should recognize that it is usually

partners, which is a sprawling bureaucratic maze. HRDC handles everything from the old age pension to the National Child Benefit. The department's obligations are so diverse that many Canadians do not realize that the \$1-billion grant programs are completely separate from the \$2.2 billion that is devoted to job creation and training programs such as Reimer's customized package. (Almost \$500 million of that amount is simply transferred to the six provinces and territories, including Manitoba, that manage their own labour market programs.) Thus, some job-creation projects have been a source of scandal last week, as Job Creation Partnerships venture to clean up the waterfront in Windsor, Ont., attracted soon because only one-fifth of the \$1.6-million grant was actually used for salaries.

But it is the separate pot of funds for grant programs, especially the CJE, that should trouble many taxpayers. Auditor General Denis Desautels is so concerned about HRDC's grant system that he is

Canada ranks last among six comparable nations in terms of private investment in training

impossible to encourage at the federal level."

But it is hard to change the grant program because MPs enjoy handing out the funds—and the government always takes refuge in pious rhetoric about job creation. Sometimes federal politicians use training projects to defend HRDC—when the criticism has actually been directed at a grant program. And some CTF jobs, however temporary, are actually created. The five-day Waterloo Wine Festival revolves around the early February meetings of an alumni group, in an Ontario town of 2,500. The festival committee received a \$50,000 CTF grant last July, which it used to pay for the \$20,000 annual salary of festival co-ordinator Francesca Dobbyn-Nadjiwan, the salary of a temporary assistant, an interactive CD-ROM and several months of rent. "This is how we run things in rural Ontario—we are dependent on these grants," says Dobbyn-Nadjiwan. "It's a big economic boost in the off-season."

Still, direct grants are probably the worst possible instrument to create permanent jobs. In an upcoming study for the Toronto-based C. D. Howe Institute, Vancouver financial analyst Ben Cherniack, a former finance department analyst, examined past Canadian and U.S. experience with direct grants or credits to employers. Those studies indicate that roughly two-thirds of the jobs would have been created anyway—or that the worker would have found another job. "It is expensive to subsidize 100 per cent of a job," Cherniack says. "And grants do not allow the market to determine where the money goes. That is left to some guy in Ottawa."

Brian Lee Crowley, president of the Halifax-based Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, blames similar grants for decades of support for unviable industries—and two generations of economic dependency. "Those grant programs are a bit like teaching a personal gardener that you can make flowers grow by pulling on them," he says. "Politicians take a few worthy things—and mix them in with a lot of things that are not genuine job creation. It's a really destructive cycle."

There are also many better targets for federal largesse. Groups such as the disabled and workers with poor literacy and few skills do require training to get them into the labour market—and to keep them there. A recent Conference Board of Canada study points out that Canada ranks last among six comparable nations—Japan, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Australia and the United States—in terms of private firms' investment in training. "While employees with already-high literacy skills are five times more likely to re-



Reimer at his insurance agency job: his training, he says, "made me believe in myself again—there are so many doors that could open."

ceive employer-sponsored training than employees with low literacy skills. "Our focus loses the bottom part of our labour force condemned to be perpetually there," says the board's vice-president, Peter Beninathu.

So how could Ottawa better spend the \$110 million in the CTF? Awooshy espouses a system of training vouchers that Canadians could use to attend the vocational school, community college or university of their choice. Crowley suggests that Ottawa concentrate on creating the right conditions for economic growth. The bridge to Prince Edward Island has attracted manufacturers and tourists, he notes, boosting the local economy. So why not improve the transportation system between Atlantic Canada and its natural trading partner, the New England states?

Others favour shifting funds into that \$2.2-billion pool that Ottawa already devotes to training and job creation. Sharn Toppman, vice-president of the Concord Institute of Social Policy, would put more money into the kind of customer training that assisted Reimer. Such training usually requires relatively little time, which allows people of limited means to participate. And the providers keep close tabs on the needs of local labour markets. "So you don't operate in a vacuum," she says, "and train 100 handmen for a rural community in Newfoundland." Economist John Richards at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., supports transferring more funds to the provinces, and putting more money into tapping up the salaries of the working poor to help them to stay in the job market.

In the end, Ottawa would probably do more for job creation if it simply improved the overall economic framework: lower taxes, better physical networks such as roads and rails, improved education and projects to connect more Canadians in cyberspace. "These grant programs seem to be fairly straightforward business subsidies that have been handed out with none of the normal cost-benefit analyses," says Bill Robison, research director at the C. D. Howe Institute. "There is a rather 19th-century feel to them." Canadians may want to consider that whenever their local MP boasts about the government's latest largesse. ■



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Callé's stop what a minister calls
is luxury pricing machine?

meled a 33.4-per-cent increase over storm-riddled 1998.

In Hydro Québec's downtown Montreal headquarters—the same building where successive Québec premiers have kept an office—Callé professes less delight with the utility's return on equity. While North American companies average about a 12-per-cent return, Hydro Québec has historically lagged behind, posting 6.7 per cent last year. "It's a situation I deplore," concedes Callé, a lively man who surfs sites still in his armchair. Electricity rates in Québec, he notes, have long been among the lowest in North America.

A former provincial civil servant who rose to deputy environment minister in 1980 under René Lévesque's government, Callé headed up Québec's rate-of-return distribution before landing the top job at Hydro. While at *Gaz Métropolitain*, he helped double the monopoly's profits. Not surprisingly, he wants to boost Hydro Québec's return on equity to 9.8 per cent in 2004. What will the company do to address the situation? Callé asks aloud. Develop profitable projects, he answers.

One of the few large projects on the horizon, however, is the controversial joint venture with Newfoundland on the Lower Churchill River Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin and Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard had predicted a memorandum of understanding might be signed by February. But the two provinces are still haggling over a deal. The now scaled-back, \$6-billion project began with a public relations disaster. In March, 1998, local protesters blocked a road into Churchill Falls and derailed the premier plan for a live television news conference. "It's lost," concedes Callé. "What I understood is that with partners you have to wait until you've come to agreement."

Which helps explain why Callé is close-mouthed about other hydro projects looming on the horizon. As for Churchill, some consumer groups fear the project, which was initially raised for export to the United States, will be profitable on the backs of Québec consumers by raking the transmission costs into the rates paid by Québec. But Callé emphatically insists

the project won't bump up rates.

The CEO is dealing with fires on other fronts. Arbitration hearings will resume this month between Hydro Québec and the 15 Vermont electric companies that went 66 days without power from their northern supplier during the ice storm. Callé won't comment because the case is in arbitration. But he also faces opposition from local residents over Hydro's urgent post-storm program to beef up its grid, including new high-voltage power lines running through the scenic Laurentians and Eastern Townships. Callé insists such lines are necessary. "We simply did our duty," he says.

Under his stewardship, Hydro Québec has placed heavier emphasis on exports—sparking concerns about reserve levels at Hydro's dams. A recent energy board study said the levels—which are key to power generation—have dropped sharply. It blamed lower rainfall and Hydro Québec's export sales on the spot market, most of which went to the United States. Consumer groups question whether the exports are putting the domestic energy supply at risk. The report accepted Hydro's assertion that the electricity supply is safe. "It's not a problem," insists Callé. The utility, he says, operates on the premise that it must be able to furnish electricity to Québecers in the event of a two-year drought. Hydro Québec won't, however, make public its current reserve levels, citing competitive reasons.

Some critics contend Hydro Québec has become more opaque under Callé's stewardship. "It's not Hydro Québec that we strangle," says Eric Michaud, the head of a coalition of environmental groups. "It's a type of management that is done in the absence of any transparency." Callé dismisses any notion that Hydro has an image problem, citing high customer satisfaction in surveys. And he insists it's not criticism of the company, keeping an even tone and peppered his answers with humour. He may not give away much, but his affability belies the man who shepherded the utility through its darkest days. ■



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Business

An Electric Chair

Hydro-Québec's CEO wrestles with critics—and weather

By Brenda Branzwell

Who could blame André Callé for being a bit dourish about inclement weather? Since taking over as chief executive of Hydro Québec, Callé has grappled with major power outages caused by vicious ice and wind storms. And he became a household name in Québec during the worst natural disaster in Canadian history. The devastating ice storm in January 1998, battered the utility's power grid, plunging millions of Québecers into the dark. A biophysicist by training, Callé, 56, insists Hydro Québec's network is sound, but the ice storm clearly left its mark on him. In the winter of '99, Callé planned to go golfing at Pebble Beach, Calif., and take a trip to Florida. But the weather forecasters got in the way. "I didn't go anywhere," says Callé. "Back then I was ready to leave," he recalls, breaking into his ubiquitous hearty laugh. "They would say, well, there may be some ice pellets but not much."

Running the provincial utility with

Business Notes

Air Canada's boss under siege

Angry MPs tried to clip the wings of Air Canada CEO Robert Milton at hearings into Bill C-26, which will regulate air travel in the wake of Air Canada's merger with Canadian Airlines. Val Meredith, the Canadian Alliance transport critic, called Milton a "bully" as MPs and public complain about pricing, service and schedules. B.C. Liberal MP Lou Schom told Milton that travellers' losses and Milton's performance before the standing committee on transport convinced him Air Canada is already displaying "intemperance" as the country's dominant carrier. "He thinks



Milton: talking tough

he can slash and burn, without any concern for passengers or the communities that depend on air travel," said Sekora. "We should put a little leash on him."

Milton argued that Air Canada got no credit for rescuing Canadian and restructuring it without taxpayer money. Further, he brushed off claims by Swiss Airways that he wants to charge too much for freeder flights.

He also talked tough with creditors who balked at being offered as little as 12 cents on the dollar. Milton told them to "make my day"—reject the offer and let Canadian go bankrupt, making it far cheaper.

Ontario's economic boom pays off

Ontario's Conservative government delivered a good-news budget under which every taxpayer will receive a rebate cheque for up to \$300 later this year. The Tories committed to cut taxes, bringing down provincial levies on incomes, capital gains, small businesses and corporations (to be halved within six years). And thanks to soaring growth of 5.7 per cent, fuelled by the auto industry and the roaring U.S. economy, the province was still able to inject \$1.4 billion into the troubled health-care system and show a slight surplus.

Financial Outlook

Fear is a powerful force. And in the banking world, the threat of rising inflation is costing everyone money. As inflation worries push up the cost of

borrowing money on the bond market, the big banks are passing on those increases in the form of higher mortgage rates. In the past year, rates have changed 18 times, for an overall rise of 23 per cent for the popular five-year term. The cost of a one-year closed mortgage went up even more steeply, by 30 per cent.

With the house market at the end of April, the five-year rate reached 8.55 per cent, up from 6.99 per cent a year ago. This means that on a \$100,000 loan, monthly payments have risen to \$808—taking an extra \$105 out of the homeowner's bank account.



Alberta Energy looks south

Alberta Energy Co. Ltd. is spending more than \$1 billion to go into a major U.S. natural gas field. The Calgary-based company will purchase McMurray Oil Co. of Casper, Wyo., as well as a local pipeline company. Analysts are bullish on the outlook for natural gas producers and see the region's Rocky Mountain gas fields as one of the hottest new areas for exploration.

Merging Europe's exchanges

The London Stock Exchange, long one of Europe's most dominant, will merge with its German counterpart, Frankfurt's Deutsche Borse. The deal also involves the ever-expanding Nasdaq Stock Market, which plans to join with the German exchange's technology division, the Neuer Markt. The merged entity, to be called the Intercontinental Exchanges, will be located in London, and will allow investors to buy stocks listed in Asia, Europe or the United States.

Backing investors' rights

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that a broker must compensate a client who sued after the dealer lost much of the man's nest egg through inappropriate investments. Montreal-based Prudential Roche Commodities must pay 73-year-old Armand Lefebvre, a loser of sorts, a total of \$2.3 million, including 12 years of interest.

BCE, Nortel go it alone

BCE Inc. of Montreal and Norcel Networks Corp. of Brampton, Ont., began trading as completely separate companies following the announcement of a spinoff earlier this year. BCE's stock declined by 2.8 per cent over the next three days, while Nortel's shot 20 per cent, then rose by 3.2 per cent.

Vanity stamps

Canada Post said it has been swamped by people who want to put photos of their choice on postage stamps. Under a new program, the post office converts photos to stickers and provides a stamp-like frame, although it asserts the right to refuse photos. The cost is 24¢.95 for 25 46-cent stamps.



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NORTH AMERICA'S RAILROAD

SUSTAINABILITY: A Strategy of Choice

IN 1995, Alcan Aluminium Ltd. announced that it wanted to build a new smelter in Alaska. One it was not until 1999, however, that the Montreal-based corporation confirmed its decision to go ahead with the \$2.5 billion megaproject. "The announcement was actually the culmination of many steps including environmental hearings, agreements with citizens and discussions with various levels of governments as well as with local businesses and community representatives," says Don Gagnier, Alcan's vice-president of corporate affairs.

According to George Khoury, director of the Conference Board of Canada's *GoodLife Centre for Business as the Community*, Alcan's inclusive and consultative strategy is indicative of the growing emphasis corporations around the world are placing on corporate social responsibility (CSR). "Twenty years ago, CSR was

stability-driven company is one that achieves its business goals by integrating economic, environmental and social growth opportunities into its day-to-day business strategies and practices," he says.

There are good reasons why companies are showing interest in CSR. To begin with, sustainability makes sense from a risk management perspective. Just ask Alcan. In 1995, after the company had invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the Kenai Compliance Project (a \$4.3-billion program that would have seen the expansion of Alcan's Kitimat facility), the B.C. government withdrew permission for the project to proceed. "In spite of the fact that we had scientists and engineers on site, we did not have the support of the people in communities involved," says Gagnier. "If you don't earn the trust of your community, there's a very real possibility that your company will suffer." Alcan did not repeat that mistake at Alcan.

While mitigating risk, there is evidence that a sustainable approach promotes a better bottom line. Certainly that is the message of the Dow Jones Sustainability Group Index. Launched last fall, the DJSI lists some 200 global companies that are top performers. Significantly, the index, which measures companies for innovative technology, corporate governance, shareholder relations, leadership and social well-being, outperformed the Dow Jones World Index by 46 per cent last year.

It is a result that does not surprise Gord Forrester, director of public affairs at Delorsco Inc. in Hamilton, Ont. According to Forrester, Delorsco, one of four Canadian companies that placed among the top 18 corporations on the DJSI (the others are Enbridge Inc., Seneca Energy Inc. and TransAlta), has achieved remarkable success thanks to a decade-long string of sustainability. "The beginning of the 1990s were difficult times in the North American steel industry," he recalls. "We decided that the only way we could survive and achieve long-term, sustainable prosperity was by providing added value to everything we do."

In tangible terms that extend developing new products that would reap premium prices. It also meant that Delorsco got it: renewed emphasis on partnering with its



Delorsco is involved with several local organizations dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Hamilton Harbour as part of its commitment to sustainability. The company takes an active role in building a healthy and prosperous place to live, work and invest.

about paying your taxes and funding a charity or two," says Khoury. "That's changed radically. CSR today is about having a mindset and a corporate culture that sees value in being a responsible and accountable member of a larger community. It is about building and maintaining strong and positive relationships with all of an organization's key stakeholders."

According to Khoury, companies are discovering that the surest way to achieving sustainable success is to adopt a business strategy that stresses CSR. "A sustain-



Companies are discovering that the surest way to achieving sustainable success is to adopt a business strategy that stresses CSR.



community. Currently, the company is involved in projects to clean up Hamilton Harbour and revitalize the city's economy. Meanwhile, over the past five years, the company has reduced greenhouse gases by 27 per cent. According to Forrester, such efforts have reaped significant rewards. "We've had a year of record profits whereas most of our competitors are striking losses," he says.

The push to sustainability has been accompanied by a growing interest in measuring socially responsible activity. "We have long had very sophisticated ways to measure financial performance," says Klosser. "But only now are we developing the methodologies to measure CSR accurately."

To further the trend, the Conference Board led a group of Canadian business and governmental leaders to Britain last October. The purpose of the Executive State Tour on Social Auditing and Reporting was to learn more about social auditing as practised by some of the UK's leading companies including Shell International, British Petroleum and The Body Shop. More recently, the Conference Board announced that, in co-operation with the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's Inaugural program, it is developing a CSR Index. The Index will be based on best-practice benchmarks that Canadian corporations can use to evaluate their own performance in areas ranging from human rights to community involvement and more.

A select number of prominent Canadian organizations and corporations are also opting to develop sustainability

measurement tools. A case in point is Natural Resources Canada, NRCan adopted a Sustainable Development Strategy in 1997 and last year released a Sustainable Development Progress Report. The public report detailed how the federal government department was living on meeting specific targets ranging from reducing overall energy usage to scaling down the size of its vehicle fleet.

Ralph Goodale, natural resources minister, believes that it is extremely important to track such information. "By measuring, we demonstrate progress," he says. "We also obtain a benchmark that's important for future policy and decision-making."

Goodale adds that while social auditing is today the exception, it will fast become the rule. "I think we will see a growing interest in measuring sustainability," he says. "Sustainable development is not just a theory. It's an effective strategy that promotes optimum performance - socially, environmentally and financially."

A Changing Climate

The debate over global climate change continues. Skeptics, while they do not dispute the fact that the earth has warmed appreciably over the past century, believe that the increase may be attributable to natural causes. The dominant view, however, is that the earth is getting hotter because the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG), like carbon dioxide, are rising.

The increase of GHG, by and large the result of burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas, has led many mainstream scientists to issue dire forecasts. A United Nations scientific panel has predicted that unless GHG emissions are reduced, the earth's average surface temperature could climb as much as three degrees Celsius over the next century. The result would be widespread climate change, more severe weather and extensive flooding.

In 1997, the spectre of such consequences led Canada, along with 156 other nations, to agree to the Kyoto Protocol. The accord calls upon Canada to reduce GHG emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels between the years 2006 and 2012.

To help meet the obligation, Canada's federal and provincial environmental ministers established a National Climate Change Secretariat in 1996. NCCS is expected to coordinate a national strategy on climate change later this year. At the same time, the Conference Board, in partnership with the Canadian Energy Research Institute, launched the Climate Change Economic Analysis Forum. The forum's mandate is to provide a sound ground for decision makers from across the country to participate in the climate change debate and discuss the socio-economic implications of GHG mitigation options.

The Conference Board is also serving as a think tank for leading Canadian corporations that are choosing to voluntarily address the issue of climate change in advance of



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Corporate Social Responsibility Week

This week's event, held in Toronto, presents Corporate Social Responsibility Week, a celebration of responsible business practices. The event will feature a variety of activities, including a panel discussion on the topic of "The Role of the Corporation in Society" and a keynote address by the Mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford. The event will also feature a variety of other activities, including a panel discussion on the topic of "The Role of the Corporation in Society" and a keynote address by the Mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford.

- Meetings of more than 100 business, governmental, and non-profit representatives in Vancouver to discuss issues related to corporate citizenship and collaboration.
- The release of a public opinion poll on Canadian views and expectations regarding the role of corporations in society.
- A joint meeting by Toronto of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and Corporate Policy and the Conference Board of Canada to discuss the possibilities of CSR and CSR.
- The release of the Conference Board report *Social Auditing: A new paradigm for corporate social responsibility and accountability*.



any regulatory requirements. "The participating companies believe that by acting now, they have the best chance to develop effective emission reduction programs," says Ron Tschann, senior research associate at the Conference Board. "They also believe that by acting sooner rather than later, they can minimize risk and protect their reputation as socially responsible companies."

According to Ottawa-based Voluntary Challenge and Registry Inc. (VCR), an organization dedicated to encouraging private and public sector organizations to voluntarily limit GHG emissions, there are several major Canadian companies that are active in moving forward on the climate front. Manitoba Hydro, for instance, has adopted a significant environmental management program. To date, the utility has reduced greenhouse gas emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels which has helped it to win the VCR award.

In Montreal, meanwhile, CNL has been aggressively working to curtail energy consumption. As well as buying new and more energy-efficient locomotives, the railroad has outfitted older trains with Smart Start, a technological innovation that keeps engines warm when not in operation and so eliminates the need to keep engines idling for long periods. Says Normand Pelletier, CNL's assistant vice-president for environment, "By being energy efficient, we reduce costs. That makes us more competitive."

In Calgary, Suncor Energy Inc. is another company that believes that sound environmental policies make sound business sense. Recently, Suncor announced its intention to invest \$100 million over the next five years in alternate and renewable energy projects. The company has also signed its landmark pioneering trade deal to purchase excess CO2 reduction credits from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in New York State. "It's all part of our goal to be a sustainable energy company," says Rick George, Suncor president and CEO. "That gives our job a lot more long-term value on an economic, socially and environmentally sustainable basis."

A Call to Action

Last November business leaders from across Canada gathered at the Conference Board's CEO Forum on Aboriginal Issues in Ottawa to share their thoughts and ideas on the role corporations could play in helping Canada's Native Peoples overcome some tough challenges. "It was an extremely timely meeting," says Stephen Laidlaw, senior research associate at the Conference Board. "In terms of our Aboriginal peoples, we are living a growing crisis."

That is not hyperbole. As a result of poor education,

lack of role models and mismatch between geographic location and jobs, Aboriginal peoples have a low rate of



An Aboriginal construction worker at the Flood Basin pipeline as laid outland by Suncor.

participation in the Canadian workforce. There is worse to come. Between 1991 and 2009, the country's Aboriginal population is expected to grow by 52 per cent. As a result there will be increased demand for education and job opportunities as well as infrastructure and economic development opportunities.

To address these challenges, the participants at the CEO Roundtable made a number of recommendations for action. Prominent among them was a call for corporations to work with Aboriginal leadership to build capacity within Aboriginal communities.

Some leading Canadian corporations are already doing exactly that. In Fort McMurray, Alta., Beverly Davies, manager for regulatory and stakeholder relations at Suncor Canada Ltd., notes that the giant oil company has made a commitment to support Aboriginal communities "as part of its everyday business strategy." Currently, over 10 per cent of Suncor's direct workforce is made up of Aboriginal Canadians. Meanwhile, the company is also a strong promoter of local Aboriginal businesses. A case in point is Fort McKay First Nations Group of Businesses, an enterprise that owns a number of operations ranging from housing to environmental management. "Over the years,

Suncor has provided significant financial help to our company," says Jim Carbery, McKay Group's general manager. "It has also led the way in terms of mindset. Suncor shows by example that corporations have a responsibility to the communities in which they operate."

"Other companies such as BP Arco and Xerox are also working with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, which is developing a program called Progressive Aboriginal Relations. The program will help corporations to benchmark their performance in promoting the full participation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian economy."

In Saskatchewan, SaskTel is also committed to building stronger Aboriginal communities. Among the many recent initiatives the telecommunications company has launched is a

partnership program with Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology to make diploma-level technologies. As well as classroom training, the program enables students to gain valuable work experience through a five-month stint at SaskTel.

Says Andrew Arnault, a 20-year-old member of the Soudry's tribe who will graduate from the electronics course later this year, "The program is a wonderful opportunity. I very hope that it will lead to a good job and put me in a position to be a mentor to other young people in my community."

In Ottawa, the Conference Board's Laidlaw is encouraged by such initiatives. "It's my hope that these examples will prompt other Canadian companies to play an active role in building Aboriginal capacity for economic and social development."

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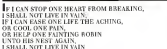
Wellcome Inc. Currently, GPCs and the Messageware head-quartered pharmaceutical manufacturers are developing an ambitious national program, *Living Lessons*, to educate patients, caregivers, medical professionals and policy makers about the benefits of palliative care. "We are a small and relatively new organization," says Lynde. "There

According to Tami Adkins, manager of external relations at Glaxo, it was about three years ago, after an intense period of research and dialogue with employees and various non-profit organizations, that Glaxo made the decision

in partner with CPCL. "What we were looking for was a relationship with a charity that would allow us to go beyond chequebook philanthropy and pursue a focused, strategic approach to community involvement," she says. "Living Lanes allows us to do that. It's an initiative that touches the lives of all Canadians. It also fits with our business."

That corporations are looking at community involvement in more sophisticated ways comes as no surprise to

The National and Western Corporate Community Investment Councils provide community investment officers at corporations across Canada with a forum for learning and professional development. More information about the council as well as current members can be obtained at the following Web site:
www.ccnrcmccbaandcnccruff/overseas/ccoin.htm



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Photo: Louise Poirier

This spring, Petro-Canada donated \$500 thousand to the Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Information Service. Petro-Canada customers and employees can also help by donating their PetroPoints to the Cancer Society.

initiatives from leading corporations and the not-for-profit and public sectors on a regular basis to promote dialogue, share ideas and explore opportunities for mutual benefit. "Companies want to be at the table – be part of the process – rather than simply providing the funding."

According to Delaney, taking community investment to "the next level" means that many leading corporations are looking to be partners in meaningful, accountable and locally-based programs that provide opportunities to engage a company's expertise as well as its employees and customers.

Certainly, that was Petro-Canada's intent when it recently chose to celebrate its 25th anniversary by partnering with the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS). This spring, the oil company donated \$500 thousand to the Society's Cancer Information Service, a toll-free, national service that provides callers with information on topics ranging from cancer prevention to treatment options. Petro-Canada customers and employees can also participate in the initiative by donating to donate their PetroPoints to the CCS. Says Hans Gillespie, Petro-Canada's national community investment manager in Calgary, "The Cancer Information Service is a good fit for us. It's accessible to people whether they live in rural Canada or big cities and it allows us to engage our employees and customers in a very meaningful way. It's also a program that can be of great benefit to the communities in

which we do business."

The Royal Bank Financial Group (RBCFG) is another player that is using a pro-active, collaborative approach to community investment. Concerned about the education and well-being of Canada's youth, the bank has launched an After-School Grants Program designed to encourage kids to stay in school. As it is still undetermined which type of after-school program works best, the Bank has adopted a "Request for Proposal" approach rather than to partner with a single charitable organization. Says Jackie Tuffin, RBCFG's vice president corporate contributions, "Since the audiences and communities differ, certain programs may be more successful in some locations than others." As a result, 1996 saw 88 new or existing community-based programs for youngsters to guide 12 students receive funding from RBCFG.

The After-School Grants Program is just one of many CSR activities featured in the RBCFG's first community report, *Beyond the Bottom Line*. The publication of this report places RBCFG among a growing number of forward-looking companies that believe it is important to share information on how they have implemented the concept of CSR to make a difference in society that goes beyond the bottom line. Indeed, RBCFG's efforts have paid off, as the bank has been named the top corporation in Canada in *Report on Business* Magazine's social responsibility category for the fifth straight year. ■

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Wireless gadgets are set to transform how Canadians communicate

By Dimple Hawleshika

Jim Baxter needs every edge he can get. Running Baxter Corp. in Burlington, Ont., he and four employees dispense advice on computers and software to hospitals, retailers and a variety of manufacturers. It's a competitive business and Baxter, who spends more than half his time on the road, needs to stay in touch with staff and clients. Until about six months ago, that meant calls on his cell phone. But since then, he's been hooked on wireless e-mail and Internet access, joining a growing throng of Canadians who demand information, at the industry types it, "anytime, anywhere." "It's something," says Baxter, 41, "I couldn't live without."

Baxter isn't the only one. Although digital data now accounts only two per cent of wireless traffic in Canada, the volume is expected to increase tenfold over the next three years, in lockstep with Canadians' intensifying love affair with cell phones. There are seven million wireless subscribers in Canada, a figure expected to swell to almost 17 million by the end of 2003. By then, 95 per cent of all cell phones sold will be data-enabled, according to Strategy Analytics Inc. of Boston, meaning users can surf the Net, and digital cameras, trade stocks, buy books and check horoscopes. "Clearly, the Internet is going to go mobile," says Lillian Tapera, the Apra, Ont.-based director of forecasting communications for Finland's Nokia Products Ltd., the world's No. 1 mobile-phone maker. "There's no question." And while phones take on the look of a hand-held computer, Palm and other such devices are becoming more phone-like.

In Canada, Bell Mobility has led the charge on the cell-phone front as one of the first carriers in North America to offer Internet-browsing, digital photos. Web access is still limited, as most cell operators have yet to reformat and simplify their pages to fit text on tiny phone screens. But popular destinations like Yahoo! Canada, Amazon.com, HMV.com and Sympatico are already phone-friendly, using nimbroid menus to offer information and shopping. And wireless services are being added regularly. Last month, Bell Mobility teamed up with Scotiabank to offer customers the ability to check account balances and recent transactions, as well as pay bills and transfer funds.

To use such services, customers need a data-enabled phone. The darling of Bell's lineup—and the

end user's, for that matter—is the sleek, easy-to-use NextPass 1000 (\$499). Made by NextPass Inc. of La Jolla, Calif., its distinguishing feature is its comparatively large, 1.1-line monochrome screen, which makes reading e-mail and Web pages easier. The digital-only phone (it will not work in analog areas outside major cities) also keeps track of appointments and contacts, which can be updated from a PC. And it boasts voice recognition, allowing users to speak commands to dial frequently used numbers or launch the browser.

The NextPass against data-enabled phones is that sitting with them is noticeably difficult. To enter a C, users must strike the 2 pad three times (A-B-C), while S requires four taps of the 7 (P-Q-R-S). So-called predictive software, which seems up a possible word after only a few taps, does away with some of the tedious, but not most. Another shortcoming: cell phones are slow. Wireless data is transferred at the rate of only 14.4 kilobits per second, a small fraction of today's high-speed cable and telephone lines. To some, the service also seems expensive. Users pay between 30 and 75 cents a minute to do

Palm's colour model with collapsible keyboard e-mail, stock quotes and surfing





Soon, there will be wireless devices inside music players, laptops, watches, refrigerators, cars, and on and on

Canada. "If you think about it for a second," says Worth, "you're talking us to time back in how to surf the Web today." It's all a matter of perspective, counters Brian O'Shaughnessy, Bell Mobility's vice-president of technology development. No one is going to surf the Web at home while on a cell phone, he says. But checking under the fly is entirely practical. "It takes me six seconds from the time I start my phone," says O'Shaughnessy, "to the time I have the information that I'm looking for."

Palm Inc. offers another option besides the cell phone. In the United States, wireless aficionados can use the Palm V71 (\$688), the company's first personal digital organizer with built-in wireless capabilities (Palm expects to launch the V71 in Canada this year). In more than 260 U.S. cities, users can check stock, send e-mail or book a flight. Software written for some of the Internet's most popular sites permits Palm V71 users to browse using a technique called "Web clipping," which automatically strips a size of links, graphics and ads to improve download times.

The other models of Palm organizers all have wireless capabilities but require a separate plug-in module, or coupling the cell phone via a cable. That wireless e-mail or plugging-in Web addresses is a lot easier with Palm's full-size but collapsible keyboard (\$149), while the Palm IIIc (\$675), the company's color-screen unit, is especially useful outdoors, where harsh lighting can obscure monochrome screens. Color is also available on the oval Pocket PCs recently launched by

BlackBerry models typing with your thumbs take surprisingly little time to learn

Casio Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co. and Compaq Computer Corp. using the latest Windows operating system for handhelds.

Windows devices are not in hot demand on the stock market, as holders of Waterloo, Ont.-based Research In Motion Ltd. learned after the recent market shakedown (March 3: \$216.90, May 5: \$52.85). But RIM's BlackBerry two-way pager (which sells at about \$60 to \$85 a month) is still popular with business people who want e-mail on the go. Near-removable message delivery and a built-in miniature keyboard are among the BlackBerry's attractions. And typing with thumbs takes surprisingly little time to learn. The BlackBerry Internet Edition (offered by Rogers Canada and Rogers AT&T Wireless, a unit of Rogers Communications Inc., owner of *Midwest*) allows users to receive e-mail with attachments. Those attachments can then be forwarded to a PC for viewing. Link out to a designated Web page accessible from any computer, says David Nield, vice-president of new product development at Rogers AT&T.

Research In Motion will also launch its release in Canada the RIM 957 two-way pager with a 16- to 20-line screen, assembling a hand-held computer and featuring many Palm-like functions. The company also has a partnership with San Francisco-based NetSmart Inc., which is developing a Web micro-browser under what is known as the wireless application protocol: WAP. WAP is becoming an industry standard as major hardware manufacturers such as Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola adopt the technology, which, the Bell Mobility's parent Web sites of graphics and links for quicker processing. But the big jargon word to watch for is Bluetooth, which analysts expect to revolutionize wireless life. It is an open-source technology relying on short-range radio waves. Its developers, which include Ericsson, IBM, Intel, Nokia and Toshiba, hope

to use Bluetooth transmitters mounted in just about any device imaginable—cell phones, personal digital assistants, laptops, MP3 music players, watches, refrigerators, cars, and on and on. All these devices will be able to synchronize with each other. A Palm user of the near future will be able to enter a Bluetooth environment, say a hotel lobby, and have his e-mail instantly updated, modernize, or a teenager who hears a song on the radio will be able to buy the music from his cell phone and download it from the phone to the MP3 player wearing on his hip.

Simon Amara, chief technical officer at Clowess Wireless Inc. of Toronto, which develops Bluetooth software, says that within six to 12 months Bluetooth will be a must-have feature on any wireless device. "You're going to see it come into the market early," Amara says, "but therefore it's going to hit like a freight train." It will then be up to consumers to decide whether they want to get on for the wild wireless ride. ■

Tech

Catching the 'Love Bug'

A harsh virus cripples computers around the globe

It hit hard and it hit fast, faster than any computer virus ever before, crippling e-mail services around the world and disabling digital files. All the more poignant, then, that the e-mail responsible for the havoc aimed with the intriguing subject line "LOVEYOU"—and often came from a name the recipient knew. Inside was the message: "Kindly check the attached LOVELETTER coming from me." Operating the attachment launched the malicious software code, known as a worm because it replicates itself. The worm then sent copies of itself from any machine using the popular e-mail software Microsoft Outlook, to everyone in the program's address book.

The speed with which the "Love Bug" spread was unprecedented, said Paul Tingle, a technician in charge of technical support with the RCMP in Ottawa. It also made a mess that could cost up to \$1 billion in damage and lost productivity. "It's going to take a long time," said Tingle, "to clean this up."

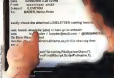
Unlike the notorious Melissa virus of March, 1999, which simply swamped e-mail servers without damaging them, the Love Bug entered itself into JPEG personal files and MP3 audio files, ruining the content. Early estimates suggested 80 per cent of European corporations received the worm, and 50 per cent of those in North America, including Ford Motor Co. and—yes—Microsoft Corp. In Ottawa, the federal department of industry, commerce and finance, as well as Statistics Canada, were hit. Most organizations simply shut down their e-mail servers and tried to purge their systems of the infestation.

In Montreal, N.B., an unsuspecting woman in administration at the South-East Health Care Corp., which oversees the Moncton Hospital, opened the attachment. In less than a half-hour, 4,000 copies of the e-mail had been replicated, forcing chief information

officer Jacques Lussier to stop e-mail service. "She felt really bad," said Lussier. "Someone sent her a note the same day. It said, 'I love you, too!'"

The FBI and international agencies immediately began to hunt for the perpetrator, while computers followed with warm warnings, some called "John" or "John About Love You." One reply one was labelled "Mother's Day Order Confirmation." If opened, it could render all programs unusable.

The Love Bug apparently originated in the Philippines, then spread through Asia, Europe and North America. Within the body of its software code was a reference to Manila, as well as the



Saying "LOVEYOU," up to \$1 billion in damage

mane Sydes and a note, "I have to go to school." The worm could also download a program from a Philippine Web site that would send the victim's computer file passwords to send back to a Philippine e-mail account. Still, Elus Levy, chief technology officer at SecurityFocus.com in San Mateo, Calif., suggested caution. "As with anything on the Internet," said Levy, "the guy could be living in New Jersey having a good laugh and it would be difficult to tell."

Danilo Howells

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Books that will change your mind about Canada

Northwest 1000 Internet cell phone: Web browsing with special embedded screen



More children are avoiding or recovering from disease, but trouble spots persist

Keeping Kids Healthy

By Mark Nichols

In August, 1988, doctors gave Lee and Elizabeth Wells the kind of news parents dread. Their daughter Allison—a spunky four-year-old with long blond hair—had a cancerous tumour on her right kidney. The prognosis was grim: the tumour was too big to be surgically removed, and the cancer had spread to other parts of the child's body. For nearly a year, parents and child made regular

trips from their home in Prince George, to the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, where medical teams used chemotherapy, radiation and more chemotherapy in an effort to shrink the tumour. Finally, a year after it was discovered, surgeons successfully removed the tumour. But the cancer persisted in Allison

bones, and it was not until the spring of 1995 that tests showed the was finally free of it.

Today, at 16, Allison is a Grade 11 student at Piusine Secondary School in the Vancouver suburb of West Coquitlam, where she, her parents and sister Lucy, 18, now live. Her interests are those of a healthy, middle-class teen: hang-



Happy day in Vancouver: 'we're doing pretty well'

ing out with friends, attending dance class, going to summer camp. And when of the hard-won medical miracle that saved her life? "It's pretty cool," allows Allison.

Even amazing. Thanks to increasingly sophisticated drugs, improved diagnostic and surgical techniques and other medical advances, sick or injured children in Canada have a better than ever chance of recovering. And despite uneven, the nation's generally excellent health-care system and a high national standard of living mean that Canada's children are mostly a healthy lot. A federal study tracking 25,000 youngsters in 1996-1997 found that nearly 90 per cent of patients judged their offspring to be in good health. In 1997, only one Canadian child in 182 failed to survive the first 12 months of life—compared with one in seven a century ago—and only one child in 366 died between the ages of 1 and 15. "If you look at the health of our children and youth, we can't afford to be smug," observes Dr. Roger Tordella, director of the Burnaby, B.C.-based McCaig Centre Society, which studies youth health issues. "But overall, I think we are doing pretty well."

"Pretty well," of course, leaves room for improvement. Increasing numbers of children are being diagnosed with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other neurological and behavioural problems—and in the worst cases, they are committing suicide (page 54). As well, the incidence of asthma and other respiratory diseases is soaring (page 58). "If you look at these things," says Diana Walker, executive director of the Ottawa-based Canadian Institute of Child Health, which is publishing a major report on child health next month, "then it is not so clear that all Canadian children are better off than in the past." Too many are using drugs to manage chronic diseases like asthma and AIDS, says Walker. "We

Canada's poorest neighbourhoods still have infant death rates much higher than those in affluent districts

need a lot more research into why this is happening."

Willott and fellow experts point to other negatives, including a small but troubling increase in childhood cancer cases in some hospitals, and a growth in the number of overweight children, that some experts say amounts to a major public health crisis (page 60). And then there are the swelling ranks of Canadian kids—nearly 1.4 million in 1997—whose health may be at risk because they and their families live below the poverty line and cannot afford adequate food, shelter and other necessities of a healthy childhood.

In fact, income-related disparities in infant mortality have narrowed during the past 30 years. Even so, Canada's poorest neighbourhoods still had death rates for babies averaging 6.5 for every 1,000 births in 1996, compared with 3.9 per 1,000 in more affluent neighbourhoods. The plight of impoverished children, critics claim, has worsened during the past decade with the erosion of public financial support. "Government deficits," says Dr. Paul Munk, a Toronto physician and president of the Canadian Paediatric Society,

they'll have a reasonable quality of life. But sometimes, after talking to the parents, we decide not to be aggressive in trying to save a child."

Once children have survived the perils of birth and infancy, the disease most likely to take their lives is cancer. About 250 Canadians between 5 and 19 die each year of leukemia and brain tumours—the biggest killers—and other types of cancer. According to Statistics Canada, the incidence of pediatric cancer grew by four per cent between 1984 and 1995, a change the agency considers statistically insignificant.

Still, specialists at some major hospitals report more cases of childhood cancer. "We don't know why," says Dr. Paul Rogers, an oncologist at the B.C. Children's Hospital, "but we're definitely seeing a slight increase." (Structural studies, including several by Canadian researchers, have discredited the notion that electromagnetic emissions from power lines and other sources could cause childhood leukemia. Another unproven theory: childhood viral infections can combine with genetic factors to trigger cancer.)

The good news is that about 70 per cent of children residents with cancer now survive, compared with 25 per cent a generation ago. Better chemotherapy techniques are a major factor, physicians say, along with the fact that almost three-quarters of all children with cancer in Canada are enrolled in clinical trials to test new drugs and other therapies, leading to a steady improvement in treatment.

One revolutionary change over the past decade has been the belated realization that children feel pain as loudly as adults do—and that their pain should be treated. As recently as a decade ago, even school-age children often underwent painful procedures without the benefit of painkillers. "We would just hold a child down and let it scream," says Lawrence Roy, head of anesthesiology at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Since then, the treatment of pediatric pain has steadily improved as physicians learn more about safe combinations and dosages of painkillers. There are still pockets of resistance among physicians, experts say, particularly about using the powerful narcotic drugs known as opioids (including Demerol and Dilaudid). But Dr. Gern Gern, a pediatrician at TWK-Groer hospital in Halifax, thinks that hesitancy is short-sighted. "We should always use whatever drug we have to treat pain in children—and not just when they're dying," says Frager, who provides palliative care for children in terminal pain because of AIDS, cancer and other diseases.

Still, most childhood deaths in Canada are caused not by disease, but by what statisticians blithely label "external" causes, including murder, suicide and—above all—accidents. Thanks to stricter anti-speeding and drunk-driving



Allison Wells (bottom right) with family; recovering from cancer is "greatly cool"

affecting as many as three in every 1,000 Canadian children. Researchers first identified FAS—a condition characterized by facial deformities and brain anomalies—in the early 1970s. Since then, they have uncovered a spectrum of problems known as fetal alcohol effects—including intellectual deficits, attention disorders and hyperactivity—that can result from maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. "It's a huge problem and I don't think it's going better," says Dr. Albert Chazley, a

pediatrician and geneticist at Winnipeg Children's Hospital. "Alcohol is a poison, especially in high doses. And as far as anyone knows, there is no safe amount that women can drink during pregnancy."

Controversy surrounds claims of another cause of children's illness—the very vaccinations intended to keep them healthy. It's a time when health authorities order vaccination with virtually drumming such childhood diseases as diphtheria and polio and tarring many others, some critics insist that they're actually overkill or even disease. Because some vaccines contain live disease viruses as well as potentially harmful chemicals, these opponents and activists blame vaccination programs for the growing incidence of asthma in children.

They also claim there is evidence linking childhood vaccinations to autism. "While seeing a lot of sick kids," says Mary Jones, a co-founder of the Winnipeg-based Association for Vaccine Damaged Children, "because this is the most vaccinated generation in history." However, most physicians reject the claims, noting that adverse reactions to vaccine shots are rare—and that giving children immunity from measles, mumps, rubella and other diseases outweighs the risks. "This movement is fed by isolated incidents," says the pediatric association's Mark. "I have yet to see any scientific evidence to support the accusations."

When illness strikes a child, the big news preoccupies the family. Lee Wells recalls that during his daughter Allison's battle with cancer, he and his wife felt torn between "teasing of his platoon, of anger and the question, 'Why us?'" The physicians and others at B.C. Children's Hospital who cared for Allison "were just excellent" throughout those harrowing years, he adds. "Medically, we couldn't have been in a better place for an awful thing like that to happen." Happily, that judgment applies to ever-growing numbers of children who face, and overcome, grave hardships on the road to adulthood. ■

HOW CHILDREN DIE

Percentage of childhood deaths, 1997



* Includes infectious and parasitic diseases and respiratory problems

** Includes other accidents and homicides

Source: GSC, Statistics Canada

"have been reduced on the backs of the children of Canada. RoboCop may get a lot of by-accident to children's health, but nothing much is done."

Paradoxically, the technologies and achievements of modern medicine sometimes lead to ethically agonizing consequences. Fifty years ago, few babies survived a birth at 24 weeks' gestation—a little more than halfway through a normal pregnancy—or earlier. Today, many live. But partly because of the measures required to keep them alive, the very measures can become blind or suffer brain damage leading to cerebral palsy, learning disabilities and mental deficiencies. "It became a philosophical issue," says Dr. Jacob Langer, chief of general surgery at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "We always over those babies when there's a chance

www.pediatrics.ca
to info

Reclaiming the Good Life

Early diagnosis and counselling are helping kids with behavioural and neurological disorders

By D'Arcy Jenish

Fred Atkinson is a soft-spoken educator whose voice swells with pride when he talks about the students who attend Landmark East School in Wolfville, N.S., about 100 km southwest of Halifax. This year, 45 children aged 10 to 18 are enrolled, their parents paying up to \$250,000 in tuition, says Atkinson, the institution's headmaster. The students come from across Canada and from Singapore, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Britain, the United States and elsewhere, drawn by the school's reputation for treating and educating children with learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Over the past two decades, 80 per cent of Landmark's 600 or so students have completed high school—and almost three-quarters of those graduates have gone on to college or university. "The children who knock on our door have reached the disaster point in school and the community," says Atkinson. "They firmly believe they're failures."

That is understandable. Life can present overwhelming challenges for a child with learning disabilities, ADHD or one of several other debilitating neurological conditions, such as autism, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizophrenia. All too often, such children find themselves surrounded by disengaged parents, impatient teachers and teasing peers. They frequently perform poorly at school, make few friends and become disruptive due to anger and depression. Left untreated, these disorders can lead to tragic consequences. "Our kids are full of people with learning disabilities," says Linda Siegel, a psychologist at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. "And many ado-

lescent suicides are the result of learning disabilities that have not been adequately diagnosed."

Experts facing the daunting challenge of getting these children a normal life say they can effectively treat—but not cure—most neurological disorders with intensive counselling. They can achieve the best results with an early diagnosis—before age 3 in the case of autism or in the first years of elementary school for those with learning disabilities or ADHD—followed by treatment in a structured and intensive program.

Unfortunately, medical professionals say, the diagnosis comes too late, if at all, for too many children, who then spend adulthood without receiving adequate help. As a result, significant numbers of young people leave the educational system poorly equipped for the labour force. According to the best available estimates, up to 10 per cent of children suffer from learning disabilities—including dyslexia and other impediments to acquiring language or math skills—while those to five per cent have ADHD. Other developmental disorders like autism, obsessive-compulsive behaviour and schizophrenia are much less common, each affecting less than one per cent of children.

Last fall, at age 22, Patrick McGowan, a street musician and aspiring poet, gave school one more try. Unemployed after working on and off at a call centre for three years, McGowan enrolled in an adult education program at a Toronto high school and began taking courses at four levels, from Grade 9 through 12. He lasted a month. It was, McGowan admits, the 10th time he had quit school. His troubles began in Grade 1 when he was placed in a class for emotionally disturbed children, but his real problem became clearer when he was 12. That's when specialists diagnosed McGowan with a disability known as small motor skill deficiency, which made writing nearly impossible. "I just couldn't put anything down on paper," recalls McGowan. "But the teachers figured if I could read and speak well, I should be able to write. They

Atkinson with a Landmark client scores 80 per cent are able to graduate

told me I was lazy or didn't care, that they put me in behavioural class."

Parents and teachers are often at a loss to cope with learning disabilities.

Typically, says Nancy Heath, an assistant professor of educational psychology at McGill University in Montreal, those youngsters are of average intelligence or above, and can possess good social skills. But once they are placed in an academic setting, their deficiencies become apparent. For some, learning to read is a great challenge because they have difficulty with the sounds of letters. Some report that they perceive letters backwards, or cannot discern the spaces between words. Others have problems writing and spelling, or picking up such basic tools as arithmetic in adding and subtracting.

Researchers attribute those disabilities to disorders of the central nervous system, although science has not yet determined the precise nature of the problem. Afflicted children cannot entirely overcome their disabilities, but they can acquire basic language and math skills if they receive one-on-one help from a qualified instructor. "If you teach phonics systematically, a child's reading and writing will benefit significantly," says Heath. "But it's like the person who's missing a leg. Even if they function well with a prosthesis, it will never be the same as having both legs."

Through treatment, children with linguistic disabilities can be taught to produce the standard written documents—such as résumés and business letters—required to obtain employment. They can succeed in the workplace by choosing careers

in fields, such as sales, that require strong verbal, rather than written, skills. But when disabilities go unrecognized, children tend to lose self-esteem in elementary school because they cannot keep pace in the classroom, and can become seriously depressed as adolescents. "They are perceived by peers as being incompetent," says Richard Cummings, executive director of the Toronto-based Inings Foundation, a children's mental health centre. "A lot of these kids are severely bullied."

The Ritalin figures are startling. In 1994, according to the Ottawa-based Canadian Institute for Child Health, pharmacists dispensed just under 27 million pills of the stimulant commonly used to treat children with ADHD. Four years later, the number had more than doubled to 56 million, graphic evidence, say some psychologists, that too many children are being diagnosed with ADHD. "Parents go to the family doctor and complain that their child is too active, or they can't control him," says Robin Abbot, a clinical psychologist in the Toronto suburb of Thornhill. "The doctor makes a cursory assessment based on a checklist of symptoms, decides he's ADHD and puts him on Ritalin. This is horrible."

The most recent list of symptoms, published in 1994 by the American Psychiatric Association, includes behaviour that almost every parent has witnessed: A child with an attention deficit will, among other things, make careless mistakes in school, have trouble learning, lose things and avoid tasks requiring sustained concentration. The hyperactive or impulsive child—especially a boy—tends to fidget frequently,



McGowan when he couldn't write, his teachers called him lazy

Parents are prepared to accept risks associated with Ritalin because of the dramatic improvement it brings

run in situations where walking would be more appropriate, talk excessively, interrupt others and have difficulty waiting his turn. The challenge, some therapists say, is to distinguish between the inattentiveness and restlessness that is typical for an age, and behaviour patterns and disruptive enough to affect a child's ability to function at home, at school or in social situations.

While the diagnosis may be subjective, American researchers have found that neurological differences between average children and those with the disorder. Over the past decade, several studies based on brain scans of up to 1,000 children have shown that the prefrontal lobe—the part responsible for inhibitory functions—is smaller and less active in those previously diagnosed with ADHD than in children selected at random. The differences are not large enough to allow doctors to make a diagnosis by looking at the image of a child's brain. But the research does help explain why Ritalin works: it normalizes the part of the brain that controls the ability to pay attention.

While doctors say the drug is not addictive, they do concede there can be side-effects, such as irritability, sleep loss and nervousness. Many parents are prepared to accept those risks because of the dramatic improvement in the conduct of their children. Calgary mother Rynn Wolf-Worthington, 42, who works full time as an accounting consultant, says that without Ritalin her nine-year-old son, Tyler, can't sit still at class, won't do homework, talks incessantly and behaves so impulsively that family outings are difficult. "His quality of life is 150 per cent

better when he is on his medication," she says. "People don't even know he has a problem."

But should parents be pursuing other approaches even as their child takes Ritalin? Some experts, including Lander's Aklonis, insist that medication should go hand in hand with intensive counselling to deal with a child's underlying behavioural problems. Gabrielle Weiss, a psychiatrist at B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver, says that while counselling doesn't alleviate the core symptoms of a disorder that is likely neurological, it can deal effectively with the accompanying depression and poor self-esteem. Weiss, who has conducted studies involving ADHD children over the past two decades, says hyperactivity and impulsiveness usually begin to manifest naturally by ages 11 to 14, as children become more conscious of the consequences of their behaviour. Nevertheless, serious symptoms—restlessness, lack of organizational skills and fidgeting—can resurface once a person stops taking Ritalin, or reaches adulthood. "Their lives," says Weiss, "can be unspoiled by the disorder."

Lisa Steinman always knows when it's time for her drop-kicking nurseries. She can feel tension rising within her to the point where she wants to explode in anger. And it can happen over things that others might find mildly irritating, or teenagers posing on a city bus. Steinman, a 36-year-old Toronto woman, is autistic. Her years in high school were so difficult that even now she prefers not to discuss them. Through years of counselling,

Arnsperg and Joss help a son who "could not children sensibly break the law"

able option—private counselling sessions with a psychologist. But doing without treatment could have dire consequences. Children with oppositional defiant disorder are typically argumentative and frequently lose their temper. By adolescence or early adulthood, many are in trouble with the law over fights, property damage or other issues. For now, says Arnsperg, Joss's anger is usually thwarted at her "Hei not a big child," the adult. "But when he goes one of those days he's got a lot of power behind him." Without more treatment, she fears, his fate will be in the hands of the legal system.

D'Arcy Joshi



however, she has learned to deal with the volatile emotions that frequently accompany the disorder. "This allowed her to complete a community college program reaching terminal and administrative skills. She now holds down two part-time clerical jobs, one with the Geneva Centre that offers support to people with autism," she says. "I am easily startled and distracted," she says. "But I have strategies to calm myself down."

Autism appears in several different forms, from mild to severe, which are known collectively as pervasive developmental disorder. In most common syndrome delayed or limited speech, difficulty acquiring basic social skills, and unusual rituals such as flapping hands or rocking incessantly. Individuals with the milder form, known as Asperger's syndrome, can become very accomplished. In the worst forms of autism, children who never learn to speak and have unpredictable temper tantrums may require institutional care in adults. "It affects a child's ability to play, to interact with people, to have friends," says Hamilton child psychiatrist Peter Swanson.

Autism is an extraordinarily complex disorder. Swanson says most researchers attribute it to the interaction of defective or mutated genes with an environmental agent, perhaps a toxin or a virus, while the fetus is developing in the womb. Psychologist Susan Bryson of York University in Toronto is participating in a large American-led study to examine a theory that autism results from an interruption in neurological development within the first four weeks of pregnancy. "We really don't know what causes this disease," says Bryson. "We're hoping that eventually we can make some progress in terms of improved treatment and even prevention."

For now, medical professionals recommend intense intervention, preferably while a child's brain is still developing. Ideally, says Swanson, children should be diagnosed by age 3 and begin receiving at least 20 hours of treatment weekly from a team that includes a speech pathologist, a psychologist, a psychiatrist and a special-education teacher. But in fact, he notes, most youngsters are diagnosed from ages 5 to 7. There are, however, encouraging signs. The Ontario government is preparing a program, with a budget of up to \$19 million annually to provide children 5 and under with as much as 40 hours of treatment per week. Similar, though smaller, projects are in the works in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Manitoba.

Wolf-Worthington with Tyler: a quality of life "150 per cent better" on his medication

Another group of neurologically based disorders—mental illnesses—can have a devastating impact on the lives of children and their parents. Schizophrenia is most commonly associated with adults, and usually appears after the age of 15. But in a few rare cases—less than one in 3,000 children, according to North Vancouver child psychiatrist Thomas Burnet—the disorder appears before age 12, almost invariably causing "a tremendous deterioration of the personality."

A far more common disorder, which affects as many as one in 50—a schizophrenia, distinguished by compulsive picking and pulling at the sufferer's own body. These youngsters may attack their skin until they have torn away the skin and damaged the underlying tissue, or they may hit out at patches of their hair. Treatment usually involves a combination of drugs and habit reversal training to develop strategies for controlling the hands until the destructive urge passes.

As equally common condition is obsessive-compulsive disorder. Randi Shelton, 48, a children's nurse from the Toronto suburb of Ajax, says her son Cory, now 12, began to exhibit symptoms at age 5. He refused to drink from glasses he believed to be dirty, became increasingly obsessed with the notion that his food and drink could be contaminated, and at one point refused to eat for three days. "His behaviour kept getting more disruptive," says his mother. "Disruption was a nightmare." Therapies for the disorder typically appear in boys aged 5 to 8 or in adolescence, but generally don't start until they reach their teens. Powerful, intrusive thoughts cause extreme anxiety and lead to obsessive and ritualized behaviour as a means of coping.

Cory Shelton started on medication at 7, but without success. Doctors usually prescribe one of several drugs that regulate the operation of neurotransmitters known as serotonin, which act as carriers carrying messages. Researchers believe those neurotransmitters break down in some children due to a combination of genetic factors and stress. Cory reacted badly to three different prescriptions, throwing tantrums and even threatening to kill himself. Now he is improving under a psychologist's behaviour-modification program.

That therapy teaches parents to confront the source of their children's obsessions. In most cases, says Toronto psychiatrist Steven Silverman, it can reduce the intensity and frequency of the symptoms by as much as 80 per cent. Left untreated, however, sufferers often drop out of school, quit their jobs or break off social relationships. "It won't disappear completely," he cautions. "But we can help a person regain their life." And that, as with other advances in treating children's behavioural and neurological disorders, brings a measure of happiness to parents, along with renewed relief for their families. ■

Uncontrollable tantrums

Janice Arnsperg is feeling desperate.

A year ago, a psychiatrist found a cause for her son Joey's frequent rages that brought transportation from school and created havoc at home. He would scream, kick, punch and threaten his mother with a knife and other weapons. Joey, now 11, has a condition known as oppositional defiant disorder that renders him incapable of bowing to the wishes of the adults in his life. Since that diagnosis, he has been taking an antidepressant drug that reduces the frequency of tantrums, but does not eliminate them. Last November, Arnsperg, a 37-year-old secretary



and single mother of two boys in Toronto, had to call the police when Joey blacked out one of his eyes in a dispute over where he would sleep. And where is the professional help? The best Arnsperg has been able to arrange for Joey is a non-appointing appointment with a psychiatrist every three months. "Finding counselling at almost impossible," she says, "until our children actually break the law."

Arnsperg says the can't afford an avail-



Steinman at the Geneva Centre: coping

Peanuts and Pollen

By Celia Milne

Millions of Canadian parents, having been told their children are allergic to something, meticulously keep them away from peanuts, milk or other foods, pollen, mould, dust mites, animal dander, chemicals or insect venoms. Parents of non-allergic kids are affected, too. They rack their brains each morning to pack school lunches without a trace of peanut oil, and many watch dragons throb for uncooked shampoos and soaps. It would seem that children's allergies and sensitivities have reached epidemic proportions. But is that so?

Establishing any rise in the prevalence of children's allergies is like unearthing iron in the wind. Statistics Canada's most recent numbers are from 1996-1997, when it asked Canadians if they had allergies diagnosed by a health professional. Among those aged 19 and under, 6.8 per cent reported food allergies and 18.9 per cent other allergies. Trouble is, there are no data to establish any kind of trend. In 1991, Statistics Canada found a higher incidence—31.2 per cent in the 15 to 19 age-group—but with a different question that made no mention of a health professional's diagnosis. Other studies have found allergies among as many as 38 per cent of teens.

It doesn't help that standard tests used to diagnose food allergies are so inaccurate they may be creating alarm where none is warranted. Fewer than 60 per cent of people who test positive on prick skin tests for reactions to food allergens actually have the allergy, says Dr. Janice Joseph, head of the allergy nutrition research program at Vancouver Hospital & Health Sciences Centre. Laboratory blood tests, called RAST or ELISA, tend to be even less accurate, she adds. Such inconclusive testing, says Edmonton pediatric allergist Dr. Stuart Carr, raises unnecessary alarm with constant misdiagnoses. "The prevalence of food allergies is vastly overestimated," Carr says. "That, in turn, tends to dilute the importance of strict avoidance for those people with real, severe allergies."

Does it really matter whether the numbers are increasing or

overstated? Not according to population health expert Dr. Eyal Berger of Toronto, simply because allergy rates are alarmingly high by any count. "A very substantial proportion of the population has allergies," he says. "It is really scary." And there is no questioning the seriousness of perhaps the hottest topic in pediatric allergy—the peanut. Even its name can cause anaphylaxis, a severe reaction that produces hives, facial swelling, shortness of breath, nausea or abdominal pain and, in extreme, potentially fatal cases, seizures, irregular heartbeat,

shock or respiratory distress.

But the severity of some reactions to peanuts may, ironically, be giving other allergies an unnecessarily bad name. Reactions to many other foods such as milk, eggs and soy are generally not life threatening. What is more, according to Joseph, 90 per cent of children who have food allergies will outgrow them by the age of 7. She recommends periodic retesting by having children eat as much as a suspect food in a safe setting, "before the parent is condemned to a lifetime of avoiding that food." For children thought to be severely allergic to a food, that could mean putting a tiny trace on their lip in a hospital, with resuscitation equipment nearby.

For Leah Pitt, occasionally quipping, peanuts anywhere near her daughter is simply screeching. The Prince George, B.C., 4th technician watched as Jenna, now 8, nearly died a seven months after picking up a cracker with peanut butter and getting some in her eye and mouth. "I am not unimpressed to tell her, no," says Pitt, 31. "Not after what I saw!" Jenna's face swelled, her eyes watered, she began to choke and then her breathing became raspy as her throat started to close. For her life in the hospital within 10 minutes, but by then she had almost lost consciousness. Doctors pumped Jenna full of adrenaline, put an air tube down her throat, and she survived.

Since then, Jenna has had two, less severe, reactions just from having someone who has eaten peanuts touch her. Undoubtedly, her mother is on hyper-alert, trying to ensure that Jenna's classrooms are peanut-free zones, carefully check-



Jenna with her Epipen, a lifesaver that prevents an allergic reaction to peanuts from becoming a bad one

ing food labels for traces of peanuts and making sure there are Epipens (epinephrine auto-injectors that provide an antidote) and people trained to use them whenever Jenna goes. "People think of me as overprotective," says Pitt. "They say, 'There's that woman again. She's taking parents to no change the way they feed their kids.'"

But children's allergies are not a private issue, nor are they isolated occurrences. Whatever the trend in incidences, says Edmonton's Carr, it is becoming "hard to find a classroom without a peanut allergy." School officials are leading the charge of allergy awareness. "Schools are agents of change," says Gordon Bell, 51, principal of the 360-student South Sikh Elementary School in Kamloops, B.C., which is enforcing a strict no-nut policy in September because one boy is sensitive to perfumes. Bell, a teacher for 19 years and a principal for the past 15, says he never expected to spend so much time on issues such as children's allergies. "There was a big turn in the road somewhere along the line," Bell observes without complaint. "Now, a lot of time, energy and effort goes towards social issues and away from the three Rs."

Autism allergies such as those from pets, mould, pollen and dust mites don't get as much attention as food allergies, but they make kids miserable with a range of symptoms,

likely to be misconstrued in smouldering bacterial or viral infections. Because of antibiotics, vaccinations and more sterile surroundings, it may overreact to minor irritants caused by allergens, resulting in the range of symptoms associated with severe allergies.

Debating the desirability of recent research shows that kids born into families with less of other siblings, and those from small families who start day care before age 1, are less likely to develop allergies than children from small families who aren't exposed to gummy playmates until later. Other studies show that children from farms and infants with cats or dogs in the household also tend to develop fewer allergies.

Scientifically, the jury is still out on exactly what makes children develop specific allergies. It does seem that both environmental and genetic factors are involved. Within a genome or so, say some specialists, children whose parents have allergies may be good candidates for a vaccination to erase their allergic tendency. "I am hopeful there will be a vaccine down the road," says Edmonton's Carr. Even so, that would be too late for children like Jenna Pitt, whose allergies are already activated. "This is a life-and-death situation," says her mother, Leah. "Every day I hope and pray this isn't the day." ■

Photo by Peter Dinklage

Young and Large

By Mark Nichols

As Karoline Kiddine puts it diplomatically, her daughter Karen, 11, and nine-year-old son, Colin, "are not the most streamlined kids around." Two years ago, the daughters of the Edmonton schoolchildren—Karen was somewhat overweight, according to their mother, and Colin was "initially obese"—began to worry her increasingly. It also troubled Karoline that the children spent hours in front of the television and wolfed too many high-fat snacks. At school, kids teased Colin about his weight—to the point where some days he wanted to stay home. Then in January, 1998, Kiddine heard of a University of Alberta program designed to make children more willing to exercise, watch less TV and snack to a healthier diet. She enrolled the children, who attended the three-month program with their mother or father, Ben Kiddine, who was also overweight. The program, says Karoline, made the children more active and physically fit—but it did not make them thin. "Probably," says their mother, "they will always be on the plump side."

Sadly, experts say, in a country where about half the adult population is overweight, the number of Canadian kids who are chubby or obese is growing at an alarming rate. Obesity rates among children rose rapidly during the 1980s, to the point that by the early 1990s, about one-quarter of Canadian children were overweight or obese, according to the most recent figures from Statistics Canada. Physicians who work with overweight kids say the numbers have almost certainly grown since then. "The prevalence of childhood and adolescent obesity is on the rise," says Dr. Odell Bar-Or, director of the Children's Exercise and Nutrition Centre at McMaster University in Hamilton, "and it is approaching epidemic proportions."

One of the pitfalls of obesity—as most overweight grown-ups know—is that surplus weight, once acquired, is frustratingly difficult to shed. For that reason, experts in child obesity emphasize prevention—diet and treatment programs for fat kids have a poor success rate. That means most

Bar-Or at his clinic: 'epidemic proportions'

One of the pitfalls of obesity is that surplus weight, once acquired, is frustratingly difficult to shed

obesity kids will grow up to be overweight adults, facing an increased risk of arthritis, some kinds of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. There are ugly social consequences as well. The price many children pay for being overweight, says Bar-Or, include "a lack of social adjustment, sadness, depression, distorted body image and a lack of confidence. The costs are very obvious at a 12- or 14-year-old, when social interactions become prominent in their lives and teasing by other children can be cruel."

What is behind the ballooning number of overweight kids? Experts point to lifestyle factors, including high-fat snack foods, television and computers, and genetic factors that may give 40 per cent of children a tendency to become overweight. But too little physical exercise is regarded by many as the principal villain. Like their parents, North American children have become dangerously sedentary. At a time when government funding cuts have forced many schools to reduce or eliminate physical programs, many parents prefer to keep their children off streets and playgrounds after school hours for safety reasons. Stuck indoors, kids turn to TV and computers, spending more time—according to one U.S. study—gazing into electronic screens than on any other activity except sleep.

The result: It's getting harder for many growing kids to burn off calories. North Americans and their offspring, "are a very unadaptable group," says Dr. David Lau, Calgary-based president of Obesity Canada, which tries to spread awareness of the health risks faced by the overweight. "Our bodies are the same as when our ancestors were hunter-gatherers. But we have an overabundance of food and get less physical exercise." The biology of weight gain is essentially the same for children as adults. "Our bodies try to conserve as much energy as possible in the form of fat," explains Lau. "If a child eats a small bag of potato chips, that's maybe 250 calories, and it will take at least half an hour of vigorous exercise to burn it. How many children these days are going to do that?"

Treatment programs for overweight youngsters usually attack across broad fronts, encouraging children to be more active, spend less time watching TV and follow sensible eating habits. Imposing a child's diet often means altering the whole family's eating patterns, says Dr. Laila Birmingham, an authority in obesity and eating disorders at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. "If the child lives in a family that doesn't eat breakfast, snacks all day and has a gigantic dinner and lots of desserts," says Birmingham, "it's going to be pretty hard for a child to eat differently."

Even when parents co-operate, most treatment programs have a disappointing long-term success rate. McMaster's Bar-Or, whose clinic saw between 150 and 200 new overweight children a year, estimates that more than 60 per cent of the kids he treats are less overweight when they finish the 12- to 18-month program. But within a year, he adds, at least one-third will relapse.

In Edmonton, dietitian Geoff Ball knows just how frustrating trying to take excess weight off youngsters can be. While studying for a University of Alberta doctoral degree, Ball and his faculty supervisor worked with about 50 families with overweight children in a project aimed at evaluating different approaches. With one group—which included Edmonton's Kiddine family—Ball and his team tried over a three-month period to encourage weight loss by changing family eating habits and boosting physical activity.

With the second group, the researchers emphasized healthy nutrition, body image and self-esteem. At the end of the study, they found the same disappointing result in both groups. "Basically all the overweight kids stayed overweight," says Ball. "I think that just makes us back to the need for prevention—no letting children become fat in the first place."

For that to happen, experts say, Canadian governments must establish public health strategies aimed at battling child obesity. One urgent need, they say, is for funding to help communities make playgrounds safer and provide more public space facilities for children. Some steps aimed at making kids more active are already under way—the "walking school bus" movement, in which parents escort children to school on foot, has spread to hundreds of communities across the country. And officials of The Foundation for Active, Healthy Kids, based in Toronto, hope their Active program, built around a series of "challenges" to make schoolchildren more active, will spread from Ontario schools into other provinces.

But mobilizing public funding for a war on juvenile obesity is not easy. "There are so many other pressing issues, like child poverty and smoking among children," says Michelle Browning, project manager for the foundation, "that programs to keep children active get low priority." Until they get more attention, Canada's population of now-challenged children is likely to keep on growing.

With Sharon Doyle-Droogier

A decade of growth

Obesity among children, ages 4 to 9



Source: Health Canada



Gutwyler (left),
Quince, Ferrell
shred on demand

Saturday night stooges

Canadian comedy festival welcomes funny New Yorkers

"Léveez, from Toronto..." It's *Saturday Night Live*! Last month, *Saturday Night Live* cast member Colin Quince opened *Reeltime*—a 26-hour comedy film festival—in a Toronto movie theatre, with a stand-up routine. Quince, who was disappointed by the venue, joked about his potential audience. "What are

we going to do," he asked before going onstage at the multiplex, "grab people coming out of *Erin Brockovich* and just shove them in there!" Quince, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., took over at *SNE's* "Weekend Update" anchor after Canadian Norm Macdonald was fired in 1998. Chevy Chase and Doreen Miller

were among those who previously filled the spot. "There hasn't been any good *Comedian* stuff lately," says Quince, 40, of some new stories worth goofing on. "People only laugh at the new stuff. And Gore and Bush are just boring."

Quince's fellow *SNLers*, Anna Gutwyler and Will Ferrell, closed the festival with what they called "slotchpro"—referring to the fact that 24 hours before they were scheduled to go on, they still had nothing planned. They ended up performing a modern-dance scene that included Ferrell in a one-piece mid-Lycra leotard "moving" to the sounds of a computer modem and telephone operator. Then, the duo sang their own lyrics to the theme from *Ricky, Boney Miller and SNOW*.

After the *SNE* season ends, Gutwyler, 32, will film a movie with Mel Gibson called *What Women Want* and Ferrell, 31, is taking the summer off to go roadie. But he hired he may tackle some world issues as well. "Every country I visit has a boy band," says Ferrell. "For instance, Canada has *The Mollies*. The UN needs to restructure so that every country is represented solely by their boy band." Sounds like "slotchpro" is the making

Jennifer's typel Story

Two years after finding out she has diabetes, 14-year-old Jennifer O'Leary has settled into a routine of daily insulin injections, blood glucose monitoring and carefully reading food labels.

The Lorette, Manitoba teen is not alone. An estimated two million Canadians have diabetes—a leading cause of death by disease.

Its complications include heart disease and stroke, blindness, limb amputation, kidney disease and erectile dysfunction. Including these complications, diabetes costs the Canadian health-care system an estimated \$9 billion a year.



Diabetes Get Serious

Know who to turn to



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DU DIABÈTE

No shreddin' in Salt Lake

Say Hail to 'em, Rose—those rumours about you not wanting to participate in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Ross Rebagliati**, snowboard champion, pauses on the phone. "Yes," he says. "It's true—and it was an easy decision." Two years ago, Rebagliati became a national hero when he won the first gold medal for snowboarding during the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Then he almost lost his medal after testing positive for marijuana. Rebagliati said it was a consequence of being at a party full of pot smokers in Whistler, B.C., but the suspicion of



Rebagliati: slow off

toeing gave him a ticket with the under-30 set. Now Rebagliati, a Whistler resident, wants to rethink his life. "I've been riding for 10 years and I feel like stopping for a while," the 28-year-old says. He's become engaged to graphic artist **Renee Schwenke**, 30. There is a possible new contract with Roots to promote shoes and clothing. He's planning to build a lodge on Green Lake in Whistler and working with a snowboard manufacturer, One Track Snowboards, to design two snowboard models—both pointedly called *Second Hand Smoke*. He also hopes to attend the Salt Lake City Olympics either as a sports commentator or medal presenter. "I'm not hanging the board up forever," Rebagliati claims. "I'm not retiring. The next Olympics after the ones in Salt Lake City are in Italy. I'll only be 34, and I feel like getting back into it, I'm there." That leaves plenty of openings for future athletes' highs.

Jennifer Hunter



HEALTHWATCH® Diabetes Day is on May 18th.
As a reminder, pin this to your wall.

Bring your blood glucose monitor and test strips to Shoppers Drug Mart® on May 18. A HEALTHWATCH® Pharmacist will make sure it's functioning properly, and help you interpret the results. Consult your HEALTHWATCH Pharmacist for clinic times.

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Diabetes Get Serious



Diabetes is a Serious Public Health Issue

These costs are projected to increase significantly as baby boomers age and more Canadians are diagnosed with the disease. (Being 45 or over puts you at increased risk.) It is estimated that within a decade diabetes will become an even more serious health issue as the number of Canadians with the disease is projected to jump to three million.

The federal government, along with nonprofit and private sector partners including the Canadian Diabetes Association, is taking steps to reduce the high personal and financial costs of diabetes through a five-year, \$115-million, diabetes strategy. Included in this strategy is a new data-gathering system called the National Diabetes Surveillance System. It will give an accurate picture of the scope and magnitude of the diabetes problem for Canadians.

You really have to become a
mini-expert in order to do well,
and Jennifer has really
blossomed in that way...

This information will allow more accurate tracking and monitoring of diabetes and the development of programs and services to reduce the impact the disease is having on Canadians like Jennifer, now and in the future.

Jennifer has type 1 diabetes, which generally first appears in childhood or young adulthood and affects about 10 per cent of Canadians with the disease. It is the kind of diabetes that requires daily insulin injections for survival.

She and her family have adjusted to life with diabetes, but many of the steps necessary to help avoid its serious complications affect everyone in the household. "Now, all of us live

with diabetes," says Jennifer's mother, Pat. For example, the whole family pays close attention to what and when they eat.

Thanks to the support of her health-care providers, family and friends, Jennifer has learned to manage her diabetes. Research has shown that aggressive management of diabetes is key to preventing or delaying the start of complications. Jennifer says her daily routine "is not a big deal" and has become second nature. Part of the learning process included attending summer camp, at her mother's encouragement. It is one of more than a dozen Canadian Diabetes Association-registered camps, which offer kids a traditional summer camp experience with one exception: all the kids have diabetes. The kids learn how to manage the disease and the camps provide an opportunity for the kids to share their experiences with others who understand firsthand.

Camp Jennifer's medical adviser, Dr. Heather Dean, a children's diabetes specialist at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, says it is important for families like the O'Learys to take diabetes and its potential consequences seriously and learn how to properly manage the disease. Understanding the disease helps families work it into their daily lives. For example, knowing how to react to a change in blood-sugar levels can affect performance and make a difference between playing in a baseball game or sitting on the bench.

For the O'Learys, understanding diabetes has become easier over time. "You really have to become a mini-expert in order to do well, and Jennifer has really blossomed in that way," says Pat.

What is Diabetes?

There are three kinds of diabetes. They all share some serious potential consequences.

Type 1 diabetes usually first appears in childhood. It is an autoimmune disease that destroys the pancreatic cells that make insulin," says Dean. Insulin is essential to ensuring body energy needs are met. Approximately 10 per cent of people with diabetes have this type.

Type 2 diabetes occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body does not effectively use the insulin that is produced. It affects about 90 per cent of people with diabetes and usually develops in adulthood, although, recently, increasing numbers of children in high-risk populations are being diagnosed. This type is often mistakenly referred to as "borderline diabetes" or a "break of sugar," however it shares the same serious complications as type 1.

Gestational diabetes is a temporary condition that occurs during pregnancy. It affects two to four per cent of all pregnancies and involves an increased risk of developing diabetes for both mother and child later in life.

Diabetes Get Serious

Advertising Supplement

Changes for the Better

Patricia lives with type 2 diabetes

Patricia Lalonde of Kingston, Ont., lives with type 2 diabetes. Before finding out she had it, Patricia thought she was losing her eyesight. "My vision was blurred and I thought I was going blind," she says. Blurred vision was just one of the symptoms of diabetes she was experiencing. She also suffered from constant thirst and frequent urination. In addition, Patricia had hypertension, a known risk factor.

Finding out she had diabetes early allowed Patricia to make the changes necessary to avoid life-threatening complications and improve her quality of life. Patricia learned a lot about managing the disease by attending a week-long diabetes education program at the Chedoke-Chalmers Hospital. "In just that one week, my fears were alleviated and I felt that I was on the right track," she says.

Many people think that **change** is bad, but for **people** living with diabetes, **change** can **save** their lives.



Finding out she had diabetes early means Patricia Lalonde could take steps to help prevent or delay complications such as heart disease and stroke.

Diabetes education centres operate in communities across the country. They work on the principle that results are best achieved when using a team approach. The person affected by diabetes is at the centre of the team which may include physicians, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists and chiropodists. The education process focuses on diet, physical activity, blood glucose monitoring and the use of medication.

However, Patricia recognizes that she has primary responsibility for her health and keeps informed about the latest diabetes information through her health-care providers and the Canadian Diabetes Association's outreach, network, products and services.

Patricia made the necessary changes in the past to manage her diabetes and will continue to do so in the future. "I can't know everything that is happening inside me as a result of having diabetes. So I give it my full attention and just do my very best," she says.



What are the symptoms?

- Frequent urination
- Unusual thirst
- Changes in appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Extreme fatigue
- Irritability
- Blurry vision
- Tingling in hands or feet

Many people who have type 2 diabetes may not display any symptoms.

Know the Risk Factors

Who is at risk? Find out:

- Are age 45 or over
- Are overweight
- Are of Aboriginal, Asian, African or Hispanic descent
- Are related to a person with diabetes
- Have given birth to a large baby (over four kg or nine lbs) and/or a history of gestational diabetes
- Have abnormal cholesterol
- Have higher than normal blood glucose levels
- Have high blood pressure or heart disease

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Know Who to Turn to...

Who are we?

The Canadian Diabetes Association is a charitable organization that was established almost 50 years ago and has grown to include more than 150 locations across the country.

What do we do?

The Canadian Diabetes Association plays a leading role in supporting the over two million Canadians who are directly affected by diabetes, and their loved ones, through research, education, service and advocacy.

Get Involved

To become a volunteer, make a financial donation, donate used clothing to the collection program or become a member, contact your local office, or call 1-800-8887892 (1-800-228-8444). You can also visit www.diabetes.ca or e-mail info@diabetes.ca.

Research: The exact cause of diabetes is not yet known, although scientific advances yield more clues every day. The Canadian Diabetes Association is a leader in all areas of research and contributes funding to many diverse and innovative projects across the country. The findings from some of these initiatives have had a significant

impact in improving the quality of life of those living with diabetes and moving us towards the ultimate goal – a cure.

Education: Diabetes requires a great deal of self-management and discipline. People with diabetes need to actively regulate not only their eating habits and medications, but also their exercise regimes and stress levels. Through its network of members, volunteers, health-care professionals, partners and staff from coast to coast, the

Find out sooner than later

The earlier you find out you have diabetes, the sooner steps can be taken to manage the disease and prevent or delay complications. A simple blood test is all that is needed. Ask your doctor to test you. The Canadian Diabetes Association recommends routine screening every three years for everyone 45 and over, and screening every year for individuals with other risk factors.

Invest in Prevention

Lifestyle and type 2 diabetes are closely linked. This means that creating a healthy lifestyle is one way in which individuals can prevent or delay the start of the disease. A healthy diet, weight control, exercise and reducing stress are important steps towards prevention.

Canadian Diabetes Association helps Canadians with diabetes obtain the information they need to make informed choices in their daily lives. Many helpful materials are produced by and distributed through the Association network. A new brochure outlines the risk factors and symptoms of type 2 diabetes as well as the medical tests used to confirm its presence. Another outlines the steps people with diabetes can take to stay as healthy as possible, including the types of follow-up tests they should receive regularly from their health-care providers. The Canadian Diabetes Association is also Canada's leading provider of information to physicians and health-care professionals and has developed internationally-recognized clinical practice guidelines.

The Canadian Diabetes Association's membership magazine



Service: People with diabetes, especially when first diagnosed, often need help and support to adjust to the new reality of their lives. This can be especially true for children and teens. The Canadian Diabetes Association reaches out to all people living with diabetes, their loved ones, teachers and caregivers to provide support and advice. For example, children, teens and parents need answers to basic questions about diabetes, and teachers, child-care workers and coaches need to know basic information to ensure the safety of those under their supervision. Recently the Association, in conjunction with private partners and Health Canada, produced a resource for all diabetes that will be sent to elementary schools across the country. It gives school personnel the latest information and aims to increase their understanding of the disease as well as their roles and responsibilities, and that of parents, in providing care to children with diabetes.

Advocacy: Many people with diabetes face discrimination in the workplace and when applying for travel and life insurance, even their driver's license. The Canadian Diabetes Association believes that everyone should be treated fairly. This means the needs of people with diabetes need to be considered individually, not as a collective whole. To achieve this the Canadian Diabetes Association works with key decision-makers at all levels of government and with the private sector.

Know who to turn to



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Ann Dowsett Johnston

Is Harris listening?

Far be it from me to give Mike Harris a gold star for his efforts in education. For years now, Nancy Miller has been no friend to teachers, no friend to students and certainly no friend to parents. All have weathered tough times under the Ontario Conservatives' school strikes, desasters, cutbacks and more. Staggered, if somewhat soothed, baby boom parents have missed that there was light at the end of the tunnel—soon, their children would be safely ensconced in university, a system they could trust. Right?

Well, not quite. Despite repeated warnings from the university sector, Ontario has failed to make proper provision for the echo boom, an anticipated 40-per-cent growth in university demand over the next decade. After years of cuts, faculty numbers are down, classes are crowded, labs are closed. With quality already compromised, universities are justifiably unwilling to accept a larger crowd without a decent boost in funding.

Now, parents are confronting the tough reality that the privilege of their generation—generous access—may not be shared by their children. Last last month, more than 200 parents crowded into a North Toronto school for a so-called information night. When it became clear that the only real news was of the people are walking on the problem part, the crowd erupted. "This is so typical of the Harris government!" shouted one father. "They out, and we have to solve the problem!"

In late April, the Harris government made a stab at solving part of the problem by increasing the range of choices for students. First, it announced that colleges would be granted the right to award applied degrees, an excellent decision. Second, the province would allow private universities to set up shop, as long as they passed the test of a new Quality Assurance Board. During the "considerable" numbers of students headed to U.S. universities, Harris welcomed the notion of keeping those students home. But let's get one thing straight, most are attracted by elite schools, universities such as Princeton with an endowment of more than \$1 billion per student, universities that took generations to foster, with enviable private and public investments.

Those who expect to attend Harvard North are dreaming in Technicolor. Yes, Harris has let the genie out of the bottle, and for some, wishes may come true. Since 1996, representatives from the University of Phoenix, North America's largest for-profit university, have made more than 40 pilgrimages to Toronto to court the Harris government. Now, it looks as if

they may get the green light. Still, Utah-based vice-president Craig Swenson is discouraged: "I'm frustrated that we have to go through another approval process."

Overall, the private university option represents only a small release valve for the mounting pressure on access—an opportunity to serve mature students, or those interested in a handful of elite job-oriented programs. Expect high prices. And yes, expect some private spinoffs from public universities, offering such sought-after programs as education, as a means to boost their depleted coffers. Now that's ironic.

But for smart university leaders, the private university announcement was small potatoes. They saved their thunder for

the big-ticket event: last week's provincial budget. And lo and behold, there was significant, if not sufficient, movement.

How should parents gauge the Ontario budget? First, the government stopped more money on the table for capital spending, boosting their Superbuild initiative to \$1 billion. Really meaningful investment in new facilities. Second, while making no direct allowances for faculty renewal, there were strong initiatives aimed at keeping bright young thinkers happy and home: The Premier's Research Excellence Awards were doubled, offering \$100 million in research support for strong young faculty. The Ontario Graduate Scholarships were boosted by 50 per cent. The Ontario Innovation Trust, aimed at

leveraging federal dollars, tripled to \$750 million. This was creative investment.

Most impressive was the establishment of a new \$30-million fund to support overhead costs of research. Why, you ask, does this matter to us undergrads? Every dollar of direct research funding brings indirect costs for labs, library, technical services and more—costs that are borne on the backs of students and the host university. The invisible hand in much of this intelligent work belongs to Heather Munroe-Hall, vice-president, research, at the University of Toronto, who penned this year's seminal report "Growing Ontario's Innovation Spaces." By adopting many of her recommendations, the province has headed the path for future excellence. Her paper airplane clearly hit home.

Does Harris deserve a gold star? Not yet, not until he starts appreciating operating dollars. But for the first time in ages, there is hope on the horizon. All I can say is I keep at it, Mr. Harris. For a while generation, the duck is moving.



Harris (left), Finance Minister Fineman (right) facing parental fury

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Education

Crisis On Campus

An escalating feud at Acadia University has left the prestigious school deeply divided

By John DeMont in Wolfville

Mark Taylor had a good feeling when he first stepped on to Acadia University's tiny campus back in 1971. For the British-born mathematician, joining the faculty was like becoming part of a close-knit extended family that included everyone from parents to university alumni. "There's a lot of love at Acadia," says Taylor, 57, whose wife, Hilda, teaches biology at the university and daughter, Robin, now a professor in the United States, is an alumna. No wonder he got so upset when asked to explain what has happened to shatter the calm at the Wolfville, N.S., school, one that was honoured last year by Washington's Smithsonian Institution for its innovation in education. "It's like a family feud," says Taylor. "One that's just gone way, way too far."

This week, the feud is set to spill onto the floor of the Nova Scotia legislature. The venue: the provincial government's

committee on private and local bills, which normally deals with small, noncontroversial pieces of legislation. But these are sure to be fireworks when its session starts in 2001-02, a move that would allow amendments to the board of governors of Acadia University, which has fractured any remnants of family unity at the elite school. By the end of last week, the Nova Scotia legislature was still receiving telephone calls from students, alumni, faculty and members of the board of governors, all vowing to appear at the public meeting and plead their case for or against the bill, before the third and final reading. Ruth Perrykanyer, 20, a fourth-year political science student from Princeton, N.J., who is also president of Acadia Students' Union, plans to appear before the committee. Says Perrykanyer: "It's all about control and power."

That is one of the few points on which both sides agree. The board members say the bill's critics want to ensure they can continue to wield influence over Acadia's affairs. But

Speculation persists that Ogilvie has a master plan to turn Acadia into a for-profit, private university

among students, alumni and faculty there are deep suspicions that the whole restructuring is a veiled bid for control by Acadia's even more controversial president Kelvin Ogilvie, who has a history of beating heads with campus groups.

There is little dispute that Acadia's current board of governors, which has 37 members and meets three times a year, has long been unwieldy and inefficient. The proposed solution would shrink the board to 24 members, do away with all but a few "task-oriented" committees and increase its frequency to every month. "The composition of the new board would also change. Perhaps most significant, the proposed arrangement would mean a huge drop in representation for alumni and for the Nova Scotia government, and less than for the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces, which founded Acadia in 1838. And who would have the most power? Eight "at large" members, hand-picked by the other board members, representing fully one-third of the board.

The proposed new arrangement troubles those with the most to lose: Acadia's student union, its faculty association, plus some alumni. Bundled together under the name United for Acadia, they argue that the new board will be less accessible, making it easier for Ogilvie to dominate decisions-making. Says former provost Erik Hansen: "There's a question of independence here." Board chairman George Bishop insists that the new "equality and fairness among the various constituent groups." He stresses that Ogilvie played no part in the board's decision to restructure. But the president has too many enemies on campus not to be a lightning rod for controversy. "It may say for these groups to personalise or demonise issues when logic fails," Ogilvie told *Mailweek* last week.

A brilliant research biochemist, Ogilvie is recognized as a visionary he launched Acadia Advantage in 1996, a revolutionary program that has incorporated computer and Internet technology into every discipline on campus. But even his allies admit he rarely lacks people skills—and his administrative ways have alienated members of the Acadia family. Two years ago, students brought a motion to the board of governors, requesting a full review of the president's administrative practices. At the same time, many faculty felt they had helped introduce the Acadia Advantage program, but had been poorly rewarded during the tough 1998 contract negotiations. That same year they sent a letter to the board, expressing a lack of confidence in Ogilvie. They followed up by issuing a bulletin to the national media, putting a heavy on the president's head by promising to donate



Before restructuring the board enables those with the most to lose, namely the student union, the faculty association and some alumni

\$100,000 to the university's capital campaign if he resigned.

At the same time, Ogilvie's managerial style again fell under the microscope when the administration tried to take over the principal functions of the Associated Alumni of Acadia University, which has looked after the university's alumni affairs since 1860. When the association objected, the university fired staff members, locked the association out of its historic campus offices and refused to release alumni funds. Now, the Associated Alumni still supports students and the interests of the university—but from an office building a few blocks from the Wolfville campus. "Acadia," says Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, "is the first example in living memory where a university president is at war with his alumni."

With his career on-ice turn not due to run out until 2005, Ogilvie is still not winning fights. Speculation—which he steadfastly denies—persists that he has a master plan to turn Acadia into a for-profit, private university. The constant battles are starting to take their toll. Harvey Gilmour, Acadia's director of development, says all the bad press is making fund-raising difficult. Meanwhile, the bad blood between the administration and faculty cannot bode well for the latest round of contract negotiations, which began last week. For Acadia students, who already pay the highest undergraduate tuition in Canada—\$5,397—the environment is worrying. "Acadia is a great place," says Petykew. "I just wish all this fighting would stop."

With John Schofield on Toronto

Obituary

A giant for small dreamers

Robert Homme, who starred in *The Friendly Giant*, was beloved by generations of kids

The camera panned slowly across a miniature village until it reached a medieval castle perched with towers and drawbridge. Then, in a rich baritone that seemed honey-dipped, the Friendly Giant encouraged his viewers to "look waaaaay up" to his tower. It was an invitation into a dreamed world of music, books and fantasy, one that millions of young Canadian viewers happily accepted between 1958 and 1985. Robert Homme, who played the giant, died last week in his Godston, Ont., home at the age of 81, after a three-year battle with prostate cancer.

And though the show hasn't been on (apart from a few special) for 26 years, many former viewers still cherish *The Friendly Giant*. "You could just go in and be in your imagination," says 28-year-old Mashaan Forster, now a Toronto child-care worker. "It was non-violent and reassuring. *The Friendly Giant* will remain in my heart." Homme showed an affinity for children in his private life as well. "He was an exceptionally good father," says 50-year-old Richard Horne, the eldest of his four children with wife Esther (there are eight grandchildren). "You couldn't ask for more."

The same can be said of Homme's contribution to children's television. The CBC produced more than 3,000 15-minute episodes of *The Friendly Giant*, which Homme (pronounced Hoomay) had created himself. Each episode followed the big guy as he and his hand-puppet pals, Jerome the



Homme in character, with granddaughter Daniella (below): a quiet playground

Gerrit and Rusty the Rooster (both played by Canadian actor and writer Rod Conyngham), explored a single topic. A show based on horses, for example, would include a story about filly, a little horse-related buster and a cowboy song. "We try to build a child's attention for 15 minutes on one subject, which is harder than keeping him interested in a story," Homme said in 1982.

The actor was born in Stoughton, Wis., and as a child developed a love of music. He spent time in the American army (he never saw combat) during the Second World War and later earned an economics degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1947, however, Homme decided to begin a broadcasting career at the campus radio station. With the advent of television, he found himself working on a children's bedtime show for the university's TV station. The show's set was decorated with miniature



Homme and granddaughter Daniella

props. During a broadcast, Homme caught a glimpse of his seemingly giant hand rearranging the tiny furniture. The idea for *The Friendly Giant* was born, and Homme created a prototype for the university station.

In 1958, after seeing Homme's show, CBC head of children's programming Fred Ramsbury offered him a 26-episode contract. Homme moved to Toronto and cast Conyngham in the parts of Rusty and Jerome. The show's trademark miniature set never changed during its entire run. Homme and Conyngham improvised each installment around story ideas developed by Homme. Music, meanwhile, played an essential part. Homme, who played the clarinet and recorder, chose the folk song *Early One Morning* as the show's opening and closing theme. Over the years, *The Friendly Giant* hosted many of Canada's top musicians, including Mae Kaufman and Peter Appleyard. Homme introduced his young audience to eclectic styles as well as performers—everything from Cole Porter to Elton John's *Madrigals*. "He felt it

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Obituary



MANAGEMENT WITHOUT LIMITS

was important to expose children to different kinds of music," recalls pop-petite Nina Keogh, who made her debut on the show at age 11. "I talk to so many people who trace their love of music back to his show."

To Horvath, *The Friendly Giant* was a quiet playground. To set the tempo, he arrived on a two-minute opening sequence that drew kids gently into his make-believe world. "It was so unusually quiet and normal," observes Gonyea, now 70 and retired in Toronto. "Bob, as a performer, was almost meiotic. He would look at the camera and understand he was looking into the eyes of the little kids watching him." Children were not Horvath's only fans. Gonyea recalls, "He got endless letters from mothers saying, 'Thank you so much for those quiet 15 minutes.' My kids just sit there and drink it in."

The CBC's decision to cancel *The Friendly Giant* in 1984 was greeted with almost universal contempt. There were questions in the House of Commons, while angry viewers bombarded the CBC with letters. The broadcaster reprised the show for a series of half-hour specials, but no regular episode was taped after that year.

With the exception of one book and two CBC albums, Horvath refused to license the show or his image. "He could have become a millionaire with *Friendly Giant* toys and other spin-offs," says Gonyea. "But Bob wouldn't commercialize his bond of trust with the kids."

At the core of the show's success was the fact that to children, all adults appear to be giants. But Horvath proved that grown-ups can share kids' sense of play and wonder. *The Friendly Giant* always offered "a little chair for one of you, an armchair for two more to curl up on, and for someone who likes to rock a rocking chair in the middle." At the end of each show, the sun set and the cow pamped over the meadow. In the *Friendly Giant*'s world, anything was possible.

Andrew Clark

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1



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HANDS ON LEADERSHIP

The Company: ABE Inc., St. Laurent, Quebec

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The CMA: Raymond Raymond, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Whatever it's on the one-inch-long bus's lucky team or making moves in the competitive merger game. Raymond believes the key is hands-on involvement at the ground floor level.

"As a CMA, I've learned the importance of looking beyond numbers. You have to get in there on a personal basis from a broader perspective. Go on site, talk to people, find out what needs to be done to create a strong team spirit and create a forward-looking organization."

2

3



BIG PICTURE THINKING

The Company: RASBAT International, Richmond, B.C.

The Challenge: To develop new markets for earth imaging data from a number of European, Asian and North American satellites in a highly competitive and cost-conscious environment.

The CMA: Pam Egan, Director, Finance and Administration. Fascinated by the space frontier since she first saw Apollo moon rockets as a teenager. Sets her CMA skills to work for breaking through in this future-driven global market.

"As a CMA, I've learned to focus on the big picture when it comes to strategic financial management. Sales Marketing, Operational issues. Solvency goes in the big picture in terms of environment and resource management. It's all about providing value and making a difference in people's lives."



Illustration by Paul Poirer. Stories courtesy of the Canadian Space Agency.

4



BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, ASAP

The Company: SAP Canada, Calgary, Alberta

The Challenge: To perfect SAP's Resource Planning software that enables clients to execute complex merger strategies in today's super fast digital economy.

The CMA: Peter Blackmore, Vice President, Western Region. His youthful passion for jobs has been replaced by taking on the Red Sox, but the love of competition is still a prerequisite for success in Peter's chosen profession.

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The CMA: Mylene Beaudin-Charbonneau, Director, Administration. When she's not developing better management strategies and solutions, Mylene likes to get a fresh new perspective - in a licensed pilot.



"I'm working with creative people on a daily basis, so I need to come up with solutions that fit an innovative and constantly changing environment. The key is to be informed, open-minded and objective, and willing to take calculated risks from time to time. That's the CMA approach."

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Roulette on the Riviera

Moviemakers and ingenues gamble for high stakes at the casino known as Cannes

By Brian D. Johnson

Every year in May, a pretty town overlooking a strip of beach on the French Riviera tries to upstage Hollywood for 12 days. Cannes is the mecca of all film festivals. It's where *Brigitte Bardot* and *Sophia Loren* first caught the eye of the world. It's where the French New Wave went tidal and where *Steven Spielberg* launched *E.T.* It's where *Francis Ford Coppola* unleashed *Apocalypse Now* and *Quentin Tarantino* played *Pulp Fiction*. The Cannes International Film Festival (May 10 to 21) is the Olympics of cinema, a circus that celebrates both high art and Hollywood glamour with the kind of pomp and circumstance only the French can pull off with a straight face. Cannes is the world's largest annual photo-opportunity, with 4,000 members of the media in attendance. It is also the movie industry's biggest crash-boat—a casino where a director's career can be made or dashed in a twinkling.

When the 53rd Cannes festival closes on May 21, an unknown actress from Montreal, 18-year-old *Jessica Paré*, will score down a phalanx of careers as she climbs the red-carpeted stairs of the Palais des Festivals. As the star of *Stolen*, the festival's closing-night gala, *Paré* will undergo a rite of passage not unlike the one experienced by her character in the film—a girl who is catapulted from small-town obscurity to become a supermodel.

Directed by Quebec's *Dany Arnaud*, *Stolen* is the first Canadian movie ever broadcast with a closing-night gala in Cannes.

Like many of Canada's leading filmmakers, notably *Antoine*



Norwegian model *Anne-Marie* Twitten in 1998: art and glamour

so picturesque at Cannes. The occasion created by *The Decline of the American Empire*, which was part of the festival's Directors' Fortnight program in 1986, took him all the way to the Oscars. And in 1989, *Jane of Marvellous* cemented Arnaud's reputation when it premiered at official competition. But *Stolen*—the director's second English language feature—is one of desperation, which makes it ineligible to win the coveted Palme d'Or and robs the premiere of some suspense.

Arnaud, however, does not seem to mind. "I want to be heard," the festival president Gilles Jacob had his heart set on closing the festival with *Stolen*, he was "a bit taken aback," he says. "Closing night is usually a big studio film. Maybe he chose it because it's a comedy, though it's a comedy with serious overtones. You don't see a lot of comedies in competition at film festivals or winning a lot of Oscars. In any case, I'm fine of all the pressure. Nobody will expect me to win anything." *Stolen*'s producer Robert Laroche cautions: "It's a safe way to go. You get tremendous exposure, and I can see my payoff for the sale."

Essentially, Arnaud is getting to play with the house money



et the Cannes casino. And as film about film and fashion, *Scandale* should provide a scotch comment on the kind of "insider" glamour that is the lifeblood of Cannes. The only other Canadian feature programmed in *Le Festival de mai* is *Madeline*, a Gaspé road movie about three women from three generations looking back on their lives. Marking the debut of Quebec director Guy-Luc Dénore, it will premiere later this week in the Directors' Fortnight.

The festival opens with *Kidé*, a French epic shot in English by Roland Joffé, co-scripted by Tien Supplend (*Shogun*), in *Love*, and starring Gérard Philipe and Ulla Thomsen. The 19 movies in official competition are dominated by fare from serious international directors, ranging from Denmark's Lars Von Trier to Hong Kong's Wong Kar-wai. The Hollywood names, often banned in the past, now need to be leery of the competition. But the Merchant-Ivory team will serve up *The Golden Bowl*, a Henry James period piece with Nick Nolte. And the Coen brothers (*Fargo*) are outsiders with a black comedy, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, starring George Clooney and John Goodman.

One way or the other, the team keep finding their way to Cannes. Strong on juries this year are screen legends Scott Brown, Jeremy Irons and Mira Sorvino. Guests of honour include Gregory Peck and Sean Penn. And while the golden age of Cannes may be long gone, there is still a sense in this festival that anything can happen, that in the Riviera twilight, a star can be born literally overnight.

A retrospective of fortunes won and lost over the years

1939 Opening with the shortback of *Black Swan* and starring *Mae West* and *Charles Laughton*, the first Cannes festival is created right after the premiere that city later invades Poland. The festival does not resume until after the war.



1962 Hollywood couple *Warren Beatty* and *Faye Dunaway* has spent their room at the Carlton Hotel.

1968 During the May strikes, protesters among from the curtains at the Palais, the festival is closed and, as a result, the Directors' Fortnight, a forum for more radical films, is born.



1969 Jack Nicholson shows up with *Peter Fonda's* *Easy Rider* and releases, for the first time, "My God, I'm a movie star!"



1977 Backstage on the beach *Arnold Schwarzenegger* feasts in a sunset for his screen debut in *Pumping Iron*.

1979 French film *Les quatre cents coups* wins the biggest prize in the festival for the premiere of *Apocalypse Now*.

1982 With no address, last a movie by a little known director creates a sensation on Dofing night. The name is *Spiegelberg*. This movie is *E.T.*



1985 Robert De Niro fulfills a dream of climbing the red carpet with the premiere of *Judith Hearst* and *Now is the time*. *De Niro* takes a break in an interview to eat a sandwich with the women interviewing him, his leading lady *Sally Field*. *De Niro* at the first minute that her voice has been dubbed by another actress.

1986 *Dennis Hopper's* career gets a second wind with the success of *The Streets of the American Dream*, a satirical comedy described by one critic as "The Dog Club with a PhD".

1987 *Patsy Kensit* comes out of nowhere to win a 10-minute standing ovation for her debut feature, *The Heart of the Mountain*.

1987 *Olivia*, the Princess of Wales, fights through the premiere of *Phat Lip Your Eyes*. And at a night dinner *David Puttnam* scandalizes everyone with a tirade about the sad state of the British film industry.

1989 *Spide Lee* is a sore loser when *Do the Right Thing* is snubbed. But fellow American *Steven Seidenberg* hits the jackpot with his first film, *See, he's not videotape*, which wins three prizes. "Well, I guess it's all dished from here," says Seidenberg as he accepts the Palme d'Or from *Joan Plowrie*—15 years before making his smash hit, *Con Docteur*, with *Jodie Roberts*.

1989 *Jean-Claude Van Damme* is released to tears when the audience practically broke *Swindle* off the screen.

1992 In competition with *Libby*, Quebec director *Jean-Claude Van Damme* sub-steps his director when he gives the jury the movie *Les quatre cents coups* of the *Palais de la Culture* Hotel du Cap and headline has with a loud comment.



1993 *Jean-Claude Van Damme* releases back with *The Piano*, which wins the Palme d'Or and best actress for *Holly Hunter*.

1994 *Alvin Karpis* makes a last-minute switch with *Palais de la Culture* and becomes a regular Cannes favorite. *Quentin Tarantino* wins the Palme d'Or for *Pulp Fiction*, later used by critics the most influential film of the 1990s.



1996 *David Cronenberg's* *Crash* scandalizes the festival, as a member of *Coppola's* jury *Alvin Karpis* successfully lobbies to give it a special prize for "radically daring and innovative".

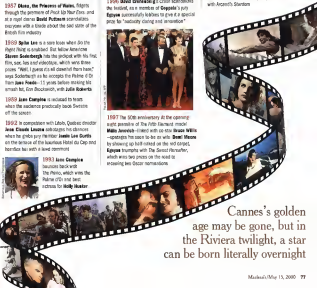


1997 The 50th anniversary at the opening night premiere of the *Palais de la Culture* model *Milla Jovovich* (linked with co-star *Steve Buscemi*)—apart from his race to be as with *David Hume* by showing up half-naked on the red carpet, *Karpis* triumphs with *The Grand Fleisher*, which wins two prizes on the red to creating two Oscar nominations.



1999 *Egyptian* is in competition with *Richard Gere*, but *Christopher* wins the jury doesn't return the favour his complaint extended to *Chris*, instead *Christopher's* jury strikes *Egyptian* and gives the prizes to the most obscure movies in competition.

2000 Almost half a century after *Edgardo Guedes* seduced the camera another 18-year-old appears. *Queen's* *Leslie Peck* serves the spotlight with *Arnold's* *Starline*.



Cannes's golden age may be gone, but in the Riviera twilight, a star can be born literally overnight

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Films

Blood and circuses

The old-time sandal epic gets a new spring in its step

By Brian D. Johnson

Gladiator

Directed by Ridley Scott

For a certain generation, the thrill of discovering the movies began at the close of the 1950s, with the so-called sandal epics of *Ben-Hur* and *Spartacus*—spectacles with monumental sets, casts of thousands and heroines wearing garter belts and togas. Since then, the genre has fallen out of fashion, but with *Gladiator*, the first major sandal epic in 40 years, director Ridley Scott makes an exception: bid to restore it to its glory.

Gladiator is a blockbuster movie about the culture that originated the thumb-sprung-down school of reviewing blockbusters: entertainment ancient Rome, city of blood and circuses. Yes, it's violent, and perhaps too graphic for some, but a gladiator movie without a decapitation or two would seem as inappropriate as *The Godfather* or *GoodWill* without a gunning. Scott, the visual

Adm and *Thelma & Louise*, has engineered a grandiose spectacle that is not half as serious as it pretends to be. It yields to religion, and to democratic morality, with the subtlety of a broadsword. But this is a gloriously entertaining spectacle, with thrilling action sequences, eye-popping set design and uniformly powerful performances.

Gladiator is a long film about killing—the story of an untrained lion fighter for truth, vengeance and the Roman way. Russell Crowe stars as Maximus, a divorced general who just wants to go back to his farm and his wife and family after years of fighting on the front lines. But, dying Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris) calls upon him to assume the throne after his death and replace a corrupt empire with a republic ruled by the Senate. The emperor's jealous son, Commodus (Joachim

Phoenix), has other plans. Haunted by his father's death, he proclaims himself emperor and orders Maximus and his family killed—Maximus escapes only to be sold into slavery. Grooved as a gladiator, he works his way back to Rome, and, as a star commander, he is face-to-face with



Phoenix (left), Crowe (top right) stealing action sequences



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Films

Expendable Commodore at the Colosseum.

The movie opens with a massive battle between Romans and barbarians in the woods of Romania. Shot in a gritty, wintry light, with volleys of flaming arrows piercing the gloom, the scene recalls the opening assault in *Saving Private Ryan*. There is the same digital grain to the bloodshed, an impression of extreme carnage. And throughout the film, Scott shoots the fighting in close, capturing fear that the editing and the swordplay become synonymous. It can get confusing—as at a sports event, you want to be able to follow the play—but the visceral excitement of the scenes is undeniable.

Although Scott's bombastic direction, buoyed by Hans Zimmer's Wagnerian sound track, constantly threatens to overwhelm the movie, Crowe keeps reminding us to share with the same tenacity and rage that he brought to *The Insider*, while his co-stars flesh out the script's stereotypes. Phoenix artfully says with the campy inflections of his ready-for-therapy villain, an unloved wife with noxious designs on his son—shapely portrayed by Connie Nielsen, Richard Harris and Denis Jacobs add a dash of Brit dignity, which we're come to expect from ancient Romans. And Oliver Reed, who drank himself to death near the end of the shoot, uncovers a robust iron song in the film's rare alive under who become head coach to the gladiators. "Win the crowd," he tells them, "and you'll win your freedom."

Gladiator is mass entertainment about mass entertainment. When Scott offers an aerial shot of the Colosseum, it's hard not to think of the Goodyear blimp drifting over the Super Bowl. And although this is not exactly a movie of ideas, the script likes to draw modern links between politics and marketing. "The beating heart of Rome is not in the marble of the Senate, but in the sand of the Colosseum," says one character, reminding us that the box office outcries all. At one point, a sarcastic Mithras (from the mob and yells "Are you not entertained?" Yes, we are. And we prefer not to feel guilty about it. ■

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- Bill Rader (Toronto, Ontario)
- Willem Clag (Toronto, Ontario)
- Catherine Devlin (Toronto, Ontario)
- Louise Macdonald (Montreal, Quebec)
- Bruce Warren (Mississauga, British Columbia)

Literature Achievement, sponsored by: beer.com

- Bruce Galt (Toronto, Ontario)
- Erin Kough (St. John's, Newfoundland)
- Kim Rennie (Markham, New Brunswick)
- Doug Scobie (Calgary, Alberta)
- Robert White (Windsor, Ontario)

Educator of the Year

- Dale Andrews (Markham, Ontario)
- Gillian Cruik (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Nora Morrison (Toronto, Ontario)
- Patrick Robertson (Prince George, British Columbia)
- Bill Wells (St. John's, Newfoundland)

Industry Advocate of the Year, sponsored by: newMedia2000

- Steven Cameron (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- Mark Dawson (Toronto, Ontario)
- Melvin Gertson (Toronto, Ontario)
- Sheridan Scott (St. John's, Newfoundland)

Most Promising New Company of the Year, sponsored by: The Ontario Film Development Corporation and the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology

- AuroraMedia (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Ideas That Play (Toronto, Ontario)
- Interpreneur Inc. (Toronto, Ontario)
- Spacewalk (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Virtualism (Ottawa, Ontario)

Performer of the Year

- Jon Clement (Montreal, Quebec)
- Patrick Casey (Toronto, Ontario)
- Laura Gillman (Toronto, Ontario)
- Katie Jones (Stirling, Ontario)
- Laila Stone (Ottawa, Ontario)

Canadian New Media Awards

- Tuesday May 15th, 1999
- Julie Toupin Theatre
- Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- Toronto

Produced by

- Multimedia Inc. (MMIS)
- Multimedia Strategy Group Inc.

Visit: www.multimedia.com/cnmis for details

Company of the Year, sponsored by: Bell Multimedia

- Blue Zone Entertainment (Mississauga, Ontario)
- Blue Zone Entertainment (Mississauga, Ontario)
- ExandMedia Inc. (Toronto, Ontario)
- Luminous (Fredericton, New Brunswick)
- Midlife Multimedia Inc. (Toronto, Ontario)

Graduate of the Year, sponsored by: Sheridan College, Sheridan

- Thomas Kim (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Jason Murray (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- Andy Topping (Toronto, Ontario)

Volunteer of the Year

- Jennifer Luthi (Toronto, Ontario)
- Sharon Hertzberg (St. John's, Ontario)
- Jason Pearson (Toronto, Ontario)
- Denise Shaw (Toronto, Ontario)
- Julie Whittle (Toronto, Ontario)

Canadian Women in New Media Awards

- Katherine (Ottawa, Ontario)
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A Tate for the 21st century

Five years and \$215 million later, the derelict Bankside Power Station on the south bank of the Thames in London has been transformed into the Tate Modern, a gallery that houses a world-class modern art collection (the original Tate gallery north of the river will now be called Tate Britain). The centerpiece of the new site is Turbine Hall: a 150-m-long room with 35-m ceilings that will display sculptures

Photos capture Canada's past

More than one million photographs capturing 128 years of Canadian history will soon go on exhibit at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa. The collection, titled *CN Images of Canada*, is a gift of the Canadian National Railway Co. and chronicles the emergence of Canada as a nation between 1836 and 1964 and the role that CN played. Many of the images have never been seen by the public before and include such famous



Crazy in Jasper, Alta., history

visions in Canada as then-Prime Minister of Brian Winston Churchill, Princess Elizabeth (in 1951, two years before her coronation) and Bing Crosby, reflections in transportation and communication, such as the early days of the CBC and historical trends, such as immigrants stepping off boats in Halifax harbour and the settling of the West. Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson will open the permanent collection on May 10. A virtual photo gallery (www.muse.ca) featuring 550 images from the collection will also be launched that day.

Television

Nothing lasts forever, especially on television. Now, there's a Web site (www.junglesherk.com) dedicated to celebrating the high-water marks of shows ranging from *Beavis and Butt-Head* 90210. The site was created in 1997 by Jon Heit, a 33-year-old New Yorker. In 1998, he was inspired by an episode of *Happy Days* in which

the Fonz jumped over a bloodthirsty shark on water-ski. In 1985, a college friend of Heit's named it into a term to describe the moment a TV show goes from gold to cold. The site became a *must-see* after a *Los Angeles Times* journalist wrote that the popular series *South Park* had "jumped the shark." Coming soon, a Web site dedicated to remembering about the moment www.junglesherk.com peaked.

Best-Sellers

| Fiction | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 1 |
| 2. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 9 |
| 10. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 10 |

Nonfiction

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 1 |
| 2. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 9 |
| 10. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> (Michael Ondaatje) \$1 | 10 |

11 Weeks in air
Compiled by Brian Bell

Spice and slime

Montana author David Quammen's graceful prose and quirky interests have made him one of the finest popularizers of natural history writing today. *The Shogakukan Bible* (Simon & Schuster), a selection of his monthly columns for *Oceanic* magazine between 1981 and 1996, shows Quammen at his most colorful. A run-in with a rattlesnake, once one of the world's most prized spices, leads him to ponder the fate of empires. (The Indonesian island of Bali, once a source of the native tobacco, was so valuable in 1687 that the Dutch swapped Manhattan for it.) Quammen also muses on how cats survive high falls, why owls don't have penises and the possible biological causes behind the insidious fear of spiders or snakes. And in a remarkable tour de force, he links the natural cycles of slime molds with the sad life of English naturalist genius Alan Turing, father of the binary computer.



Theatre

While Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain works in an arms mediator in Northern Ireland helping to negotiate an end to the violence there, award-winning Toronto playwright Robert Morgan is going to Belfast to foster peace with his theatrical work. Morgan, 49, has been invited to the Ulster capital to direct an all-Irish cast in the premiere of his play *A Time for Magic* in theme—the resolution of conflict between two traditionally warring peoples—caught the attention of Anna Carter, artistic director of the International Arts Festival for Young People in Belfast. She felt the play was an apt metaphor for the situation in Northern Ireland and asked Morgan to rework it for her audience. *A Time for Magic* opens in Belfast on May 8 and then will travel throughout Ulster. "Theatre is one of our most powerful and direct forms of communication," says Morgan. "It can bring around significant change."

CD Releases

If Canadian music had a Mount Rushmore, a world study forum the disheveled faces of Jon Mitchell and Neil Young. Although both artists moved south to find fame during the 1960s, their popularity and influence in Canada has only grown with each passing year.



Mitchell, Young (right) founded *Quicken* *Quicken*. Part of this is due to Canadians' pride in seeing two of their own embraced by the world. But Mitchell and Young, unlike much of their contemporaries, have remained alive—winking legends of new film along the way. Kindred spirits who once shared the same manager, they are now in their mid-50s, each with new albums on Reprise Records, the label founded by Frank Sinatra. While the recordings have a retro, even nostalgic, tone, both

THIS RESEARCH IS A REAL HIT WITH CRASH TEST DUMMIES.

We've all seen those crash tests where a car is sent hurtling into a wall to test its ability to sustain an impact and protect its passengers. Thanks to research conducted by Dr. Indira Samarasinghe to improve the way steel is made, those crash test dummies—and you and I—may be more likely to emerge unscathed from a car crash.



Using mathematical models, Dr. Samarasinghe and her team of researchers at the University of British Columbia have modeled steel with the particular mechanical properties required. This

means that our manufacturers can now repeat steel that is uniquely resistant to impact, while tire producers can get the strong steel wire they need for their steel-belted radial tires.

And that's not all. Her research is also having an impact on the quality of steel being produced. Once again using mathematical models, she has helped steel makers identify when and why certain defects occur during continuous casting, when liquid metal is converted to solid steel. The results of her research are being used by steel producers around the world.

This is just one of many university projects funded by NSERC (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council). We're celebrating our world-class scientists and engineers who keep Canada at the forefront of research. Their work pays huge dividends with jobs, a higher standard of living, and economic prosperity. No matter how you look at it, this research is a smashing success.



For more information on NSERC, please contact us at www.nserc.ca or at (613) 995-5992.

are brimming with songs that shine with confidence and wisdom.

For *Both Sides Now*, Mitchell earned to jazz standards of the 1930s and '40s for inspiration, songs once popularized by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Sinatra. The result is a concept album that charts the vagaries of romance, from first flush and blissful consummation to heart disillusionment and cheerful reconciliation. Backed by the 71-piece

London Symphony Orchestra, Mitchell sings *You're My Thrill* with a palpable excitement, while *Gone with Love* and *Some Whiskey* benefit from her rich and sensuous phrasing. But the most surprising tracks are the jazz standards that Mitchell gives two of her own songs. With lush orchestral accompaniment, *A Case of You* and the title number are revelations—slower and more meaningful than in their original acoustic form.


By contrast, Young's *Silver & Gold* is an eerily accurate effort. But its songs, like those on Mitchell's album, deal exclusively with matters of the heart.

Good to See You and *Distance* convey gentle reveries about love, full of sun-kissed images and harmonious that buzz like cicadas on a hot summer day. In fact, much of the recording has a simple, rustic charm as comfortable as the "corduroy pants and old plaid shirt" that Young sings about in *Daddy Was Right*. Harkening back to his *Harvest* and, more recently, *Harvest Moon* albums, *Silver & Gold* is vintage Neil Young—and proof that some of Canada's best only get better with age.

Nathalie Jennings

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Allan Fotheringham

A tale of lions and lambs

There is one night, every year, in Ottawa when they turn the youth into plebeians. The ritual is named off: The lion lies down with the lamb.

People who carve up each other for 364 days of the year instead carve up beef tenderloin with caramelized onion, mixed cornari, thyme and red-wine sauce—following the fresh asparagus spears with baby lettuce and a gear cheese vinaigrette—before noddling into the herb-infused sauce, the chocolate maple with hazelnut pudding and Alsatian Brandy.

This would be Politics and The Pea, the annual with black-tie affair in which the literary and journalistic types sit down with the cabinet ministers, MPs, senators and other Parliament Hill layabouts and drink. Drink is a most mandatory lubricant when the lion gets down with the lamb. They up from the same source.

There is, as warm up, a reception in the Senate foyer where the cocktail reception rises to about 100 degrees while the ladies check out their garbs. (The Lady in Red was adjudged the winner.)

This is followed by dinner in the magnificent Hall of Honour, the gargoyles looking down like chaperones from the vaulted carved stone ceiling. And then on to the Piano Bar in the Reading Room for coffee and other poison for any survivors who haven't exhausted their gossip.

Behind all this is the Writers' Trust of Canada, which was founded in 1976 by Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Graeme Gibson and Margaret Laurence. The object is the care and feeding of Canadian writers and Canadian literature—which accounts for the \$200-a-plate tab.

It's a fair guess, since there are 45 published authors and 50 poets, with six other jobs on hold in case anyone fell down wounded. That's how hot a tickler it is in the town that fur forges.

What is most interesting, of course, is this ban-out, a who didn't attend—along with all the corporate barons and imports who flock out the gathering. The Prime Minister, otherwise known as Jean of Arabia, took a pass as some of the premiere suspects who were on his disastrous Middle East bar-b-que last week were all in attendance, shined and polished in the best rental tux.

His declining reputation has been well recorded by people

who might have been his seatmate—Bob Fife or Paul Wells of the *National Post*, Hugh Winzor or Jeffrey Simpson of *The Globe and Mail*, Anthony Wilson-Smith of *Maclean's*, the rising newcomer Lawrence Martin of *Southern*. Jane Stewart, all six feet of her, is present, as are 15 Grit cabinet ministers, but no boss. Conrad Black, with his recent troubles, was nowhere to be found.

But Martin knows where his savings are buried and ended over one high table she featured such as Air Canada jet boss Robert Milnes, Bombardier CEO Robert Brown and now-rich ex-cabinet minister Ed Levesley.

Joe Clark, roundly crushed for not attending a Mike Harris fund-raiser in Toronto the same night, qualified here as both a published author and a politician, as did his date Maureen McTeer—and Liberal MP John Godfrey.

Among qualifying authors was past American ambassador to Canada James Blackhurst who flew in from Washington for the bash. And convinced his successor, Gordon Giffin, that this was the place to be.

Authors unions, such as the Writers' Union, have won some battles for the lovely scribbles. One is that anyone who has written a book in Canada gets a tidy little cheque every

year on behalf of all the public libraries who have had customers who have taken a book out on loan rather than buy it. Tom Clancy would love such a gold mine.

The new task, one suspects, is a struggle with newspaper and magazine employers who ship their nation's efforts off to the Internet. When does the scribbler get one's own cut? Every scribe in Canada is watching closely the current class-action lawsuit launched by Heather Robertson, established author and now freelancer, who is suing Thomson Newspapers for shipping onwards an article for which she was paid only once.

Cyberpace is the new noise challenge for the Berton/Atwood creation. The corporate owners claim they aren't making any money off the Internet "yet." What the Writers' Trust should be demanding—as with the car from literary loans—is that the bloke providing the "content" be cut into the deal.

It's only fair, and we have no evidence a lot of that anyone, Canadian broadly to prove that point.



Monday, 8:45 a.m.

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